

Partners' Progress-Uganda

The Newsletter of Real Partners Uganda, Inc.

Annual Report-2013

April 2014

ONE BOY'S STORY

Just after the release of the Ugandan Primary Leavers' Exam results, Mustard Seed Academy's head teacher John Robert Inyalio had a talk with one of his best students. Below is the conversation.

We are so grateful that Mustard Seed has had such a positive influence on one boy's life. We are humbled to know that there are hundreds of other similar stories--all made possible by RPU's sponsors and donors. The thanks belongs to YOU.

HM: What is your name and how old are you?

Takeeto: My name is Takeeto Francis Creavins and I am 13 years old.

HM: In which year did you join Mustard Seed Academy?

Takeeto: I joined Mustard Seed Academy in 2009.

HM: What made you join our school?

Takeeto: My mother was a teacher. Unfortunately she had HIV, which disturbed her most of the time, and she decided to bring me to Mustard Seed Academy such that I can get a sponsor and in case she died, I would be assured of further studies.

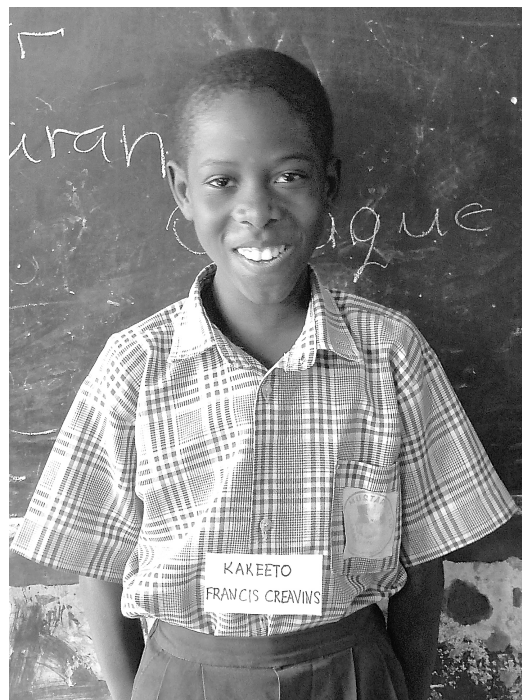
HM: What problems did you face before joining Mustard Seed Academy that our school has addressed?

Takeeto: Oh! Teacher, very many. One, I used to go without lunch and breakfast at school, if my mother failed to pay money for it. Secondly, I missed classes a lot because I could be chased back home now and then for fees. Thirdly, I did not know how to speak English well, and I remember for the first year I was not the best student in Mustard Seed Academy, but second year, I gained, and I started becoming the first. Therefore, the caring staff of Mustard Seed Academy is what I will never forget. And so.... many things.

HM: What did you like about Mustard Seed Academy?

Takeeto: I like the good feeding, free uniforms, good standard of the school, loving and caring teachers and many other things.

HM: I know you were the best student in Mustard Seed Academy and one of the best in Uganda. How did it happen despite the fact that you faced stress when your mother died?



Takeeto Francis Creavins, a small-sized boy with a bright mind, great work ethic, cheerful spirit and appreciative heart, epitomizes the Mustard Seed Academy student body.

Takeeto: It was a very tough time for me when my mother passed away on 2nd September, 2013 (with tears on the eyes), and it was only two months to Primary Leaving Examinations. I thought that was the end, but I was counseled by my aunt and my teachers who helped me a lot. I also accepted to change and concentrated on the books. I could wake up to read at night and I consulted much my teachers. Also the atmosphere in the Rapha's home made me perform well.

HM: How did your staying at Rapha's help you?

Takeeto: Teacher, at Rapha's House, I could get enough time to revise my books (study), I could play with other children and that helped me forget the death of my mother, and the aunts (matrons) were so good to me-like a mother.

HM: Now that you are in senior one, what can you say to your teachers and sponsors?

Takeeto: I would like to thank so much my teachers for caring, loving, guiding, and teaching me. May God bless them. I also thank so much my sponsors for sponsoring my education and I will always pray for them.

HM: Thank you Takeeto for talking to me, I wish you well in Secondary.

Takeeto: You are very welcome teacher.

Imagine!

by Joe Griswold

Mustard Seed Academy has completed its fifth year in Lukaya, Uganda, and as of Feb. 2014 is serving over 500 poor children who otherwise would have few prospects for good schooling and a happy, healthy childhood. I am so grateful for our partnership and what has been accomplished. The path is still steep and the challenges great, but we are now seasoned hikers, ready to climb higher. Won't you please contribute generously to make sure each child has the best possible future?

Here are some of the reasons why supporting Real Partners Uganda made sense to over 400 individuals, churches, civic organizations, and foundations during 2013.



The new administration building anchors the transitional campus. It contains two offices for head masters and staff rooms for both primary and secondary schools.



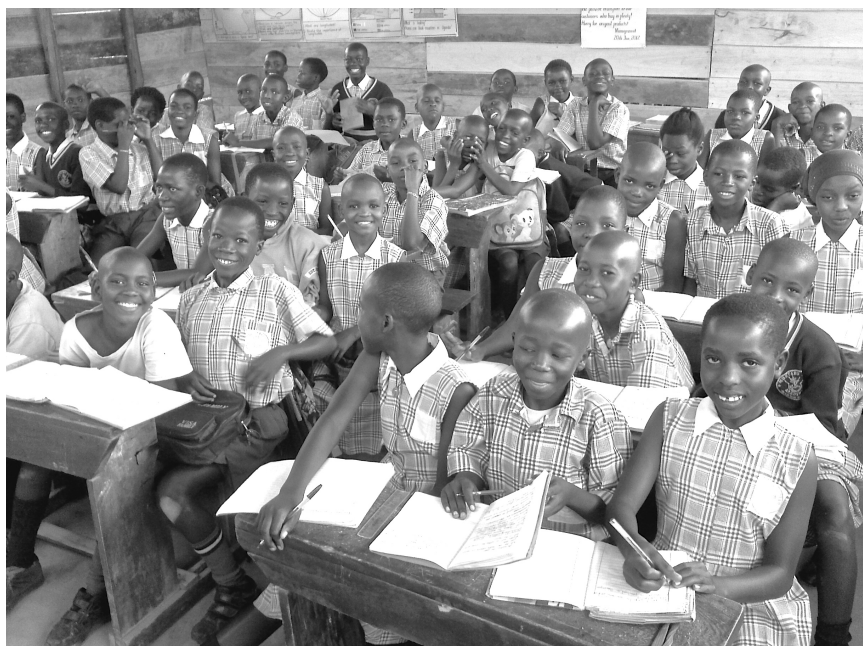
Achievement: Imagine being the district's top-performing primary school (among 250 total) in 2012 and 2013!

Bang for the buck: Imagine raising an orphaned child--and doing it well--for \$2 per day for everything!

A "cocktail of care": Imagine providing for every need of a child who comes to you with nothing but her God-given potential.

New self-images: Imagine a poor child suddenly realizing that his life really matters, that she is valued and loved. (Continued on page 3)

Above left: students are happy to arrive home to Rapha's House. Above right, nursery school students enjoy their breakfast porridge. Right, MSA Primary School students enjoy the new "Green Campus" in spite of crowded classrooms and too few desks.



Empowering Ugandans: Imagine local people moving mountains of poverty in a destitute community, giving hope for the future.

Local resources solve local problems: Imagine raising plants to make tea that prevents malaria—or cures it.

Environmental reclamation: Imagine animal and human wastes that would pollute the ground water converted to biogas for cooking and germ-free fertilizer for the garden.

Sustainability: Imagine moving, day-by-day and year-to-year, toward being economically self-reliant.

The Leadership Team: Imagine intelligent, honest people working cooperatively to build futures for children who have been orphaned or deserted-and, for themselves.

Mustard Seed's ambassadors: Imagine chatting in English with a polite, confident child who proudly shows you her school and why all our efforts here in America are really worth it.

A school that needs a home: Imagine a wonderful program producing enthusiastic, high-achieving students that operates in buildings similar to American storage sheds.

Praise and celebration: Imagine Americans and Ugandans of many traditions celebrating what has been accomplished with God's provision and their own hard work. Year after year, they rejoice in the miracle of transformed lives.

Partnership: Imagine joining with other non-profits to embrace the common vision of self-sustaining programs that can "break the cycle of poverty." Mustard Seed's school motto is "We can move mountains!" And look—it's happening.



Top: The new "Green Campus" with 7 classrooms for all primary classes in two buildings, 3 classrooms for the secondary school, an administration building and latrines will serve over the next few years as the master plan is developed on the surrounding property.



Above: General Manager George Kateregga shows visitor Carrie Harless the progress that has been made in developing the nursery school campus.

Right, Sponsor, Julie Witcher, receives a joyous welcome from MSA nursery school students. Such friendliness toward a "Mzungu" visitor by young children illustrates the enriched experience of MSA. Most preschoolers in Lukaya are frightened by foreigners.



Above: Kathryn and Dana Hiscock with students at the P-7 Leavers Blessing and (graduation) Celebration. Tears turned to smiles when the Hiscocks stood in for the missing parents of these four boys.



News Briefs

In Lukaya:

• **MSA's Primary 7 class of 2013 topped** the Kalungu District on the national Primary Leavers Exam with all 18 girls and 13 boys getting first (A) or second (B) grade scores. Head boy Kakeeto Francis got the district's top score (see page 1). All are now enrolled in Mustard Seed Secondary School.

• **MSA's primary and secondary students** moved to the new Green Campus and began classes in transitional buildings as they await development of the permanent campus.

• **A small house** was constructed near Rapha's House, and George Kateregga, the Tree of Life Ministries' general manager, moved there in November, providing additional supervision for our boarding students.

• **A boys dormitory** is under construction adjacent to Rapha's House providing separate housing for up to 24 older boys. A house-father who lives in the building will supervise, counsel and serve as a good role-model for these orphans.

In the United States:

• **Real Partners Uganda** completed its first external audit. An independent auditor was retained to do an in-depth investigation of our financial affairs and use of donated funds. After several months of documenting information here and in Uganda, RPU received a "clean" letter indicating that our finances are in good order and funding is being used in Lukaya in accordance with the charitable purposes consistent with U.S. 501(c)(3)s.

• **Slippery Rock Rotary Club** in Pennsylvania, led by RPU Board director Ken Bennett, has nearly completed a very successful fund-raising campaign to support infrastructure development on the new Green Campus. The project will receive matching funds from Rotary International to drill two wells, build a community water station, bring electrical service to the campus, and install a modern waste management system.

• **Long-time partner Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church** in Egg Harbor Township will hold its third annual auction to benefit RPU and MSA on June 7th. Proceeds will fund the purchase of 50 e-readers for the school. Non-profit **Worldreader** loads 100 books on each Kindle. Books are chosen specifically for the school and combine works from East African publishers with world classics.

RPU Board of Directors 2013

Kenneth E. Bennet, Director	Jackie Sarner, Secretary
Diane Falk, Ph.D., Director	E. Lee Whitton, Director
Dana Hiscock, Treasurer	Rev. John R. Scotland, Advisor
Kathryn Hiscock, Vice President	Judy Sconyers, Advisor
Elaine Griswold, Exec. Director	Kristen Pettet, Advisor
Joseph Griswold, Ph.D., President	



Joe Griswold, RPU President, greets Reverend Godfrey Mpuuga Kasiita upon his arrival at Newark Airport in April 2013. Reverend has been an important partner since 2003 and is the treasurer for Tree of Life Ministries as well as chaplain of Mustard Seed Academy. On his first trip out of Uganda, he made new friends in New Jersey, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

RPU's Fiscal Year 2013 Overview

The RPU Board of Directors are especially grateful to the donors whose generosity supported our work in Uganda in 2013. Special thanks to: accountant **Ken Groome** whose volunteer help kept RPU financial records and reports on track again this year. His work, along with that of volunteer RPU Executive Director Elaine Griswold was essential to the excellent audit report we received.

Opening balance 1/1/13	\$54,767
INCOME	
Donations (Capital)	\$36,565
Donations (Operations)	\$252,759
Foundation & Trust Grants	\$60,692
Equity Accts Restricted*	-\$5,901
Total Income	\$344,095
EXPENSE	
Grants given to TOLM	\$250,839
RPU Operations (banking, office)	\$3,186
Contract services	\$3,180
Public relations	\$2,449
Total Expense	\$259,654
Net Income	\$84,441
Ending balance 12/31/13	\$136,894

* Equity Accounts-Restricted support programs in Lukaya for youth and orphans (Eagles Wings Children's Village, Hope Destitute Children's Centre, and Nancy's Girls).

Our heartfelt thanks to all of the donors of 2013. The lives of over 500 Ugandans were transformed by your compassion! Bless you.

Absecon Presby. Church	Claudia Day	Paul & Marjorie Hamer	Joe & Carole LeBoon
Mary Alexander	Judith Dederick	Beverlin Hammett	Robert Lehrburger
Frank & Paula Allebaugh	Anthony DeLuca &	Carolyn Beth Handler	Daniel & David Lemons
Michael Allen	Gayle Tegler	Dorothy Harlan	Sandra Lewis
Barbara & Glenn Allison	Marie Di Blasio-Parks	Susan Harper	Betty Lloyd
Salvatore & Janet Architto	Monica DiFonzo-Eafrati	Joan Haughey	Chuck & Diane Long
Michael & Lesley Arlein	Harold & Donna Downing	Phyllis Heffner	Megan Luciano
Anonymous	Wendy Draina	Gertrudis Heiliger	Rosalie Luthi
Peter & Lori Arnet	Jane & Larry Droppa	Lori & Dorie Herndon	Ruth MacFarland
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Atwater	Robin Eicher	Regina Herz	Jean MacPherson
Joel & Marilyn Bamford	Deb & Cherie Enderlin	Catherine Higbee	Manna Ministries
Jack Beckwermert	Dennis Faherty	Jonathan Hill	Worldwide
Dawn & Ken Bennett	David Falk	Deborah & Norbert Hirst	Kris Mantravadi
Leo Bennett	Diane Falk	Dana & Kathryn Hiscock	Chris & Sally Marshall
Kenneth Bennett	Sue & John Ferguson	Hiscock-Sproat Family	Christine Martin
Janet Benway	Bruce & Diane Firkins	James & Gina Hiscock	Gerard & Roberta Martin
Don & Jean Bereheiko	John & Agnes Fisher	Elaine Hogan	Ginger Mastrangelo
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Joseph & Signe Culleney	Kenneth & Alice Groome	Landmark Student Council	Kathleen O'Hare
Thomas & Linda Culleney	Mark Gross	Donald & Gail Landzettel	Oak Grove Lutheran
Eleanor Dallal	Mary Gross	Karen Lapidus	Church (MN)
Toby Davidow	Judith Hall	Mark Larimer	

REAL PARTNERS UGANDA

Ocean Hts Presby. Church, EHT, NJ	Paralee & Phil Restivo	James Sconyers	George Tucci
Mark Owens	Kathleen Revelle	Judith Sconyers	Michael & Carol Tveite
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Shaun Padgett	Arthur Richards	John & Betsy Searight	Joyce Vanaman
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Margaret Patterson	Dick Rosenbaum	Michael Squires	Barry & Debi Veenstra
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Linda Pintard	Robert & Diann Ryan	Robert & Joanne Stiefbold	Carlton Whatley
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Martin Resick	Patricia Ann Schnur		Mike & Katie Yeager
	Michael Sciarrotta		Ernestine Zeli-Bove
	Jacob Sconyers		

The list above reflects the donations received from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2013. Some sponsors may have written their checks during 2013, but if RPU received them after Dec. 31 their names will be on the 2014 donor list. Some donors gave indirectly to Real Partners Uganda through: FirstGiving, JustGive, Network for Good, Guide Star, Fidelity Charitable Trust, Schwab Charitable and other family foundations. We hope that we have included each and every one. In addition, many people have donated countless hours and talents to carry out the work of the organizations here and in Uganda. As our Ugandan partners often say, **"Thanks is not a big enough word" to express our gratitude.**

Types of Sponsorships

Our sponsorships remain among the very lowest of any similar programs in East Africa. This is thanks to the many donors who provide unrestricted gifts, and to the Leadership Team in Uganda who have learned to stretch every shilling to meet the needs of the students and staff at MSA and TOLM. RPU offers five different types of **student sponsorships** (which are summarized in the table to the right).

Teacher sponsorships are still set at \$1650 per year (\$140/mo).

Sponsor a Day at MSA (with a suggested donation of \$200) supports operations on a day selected by the donor. The gift helps to offset the costs for children who are not sponsored plus utilities and other necessities. Special recognition occurs during the daily closing assembly at MSA, and the occasion is listed on the RPU website. We are happy to provide "Gift Cards" for you to give to the honoree.

Sponsorship and code	Annual Donation	Monthly Donation
Nursery/Primary School-- Day Student (SAC)	\$180	\$16*
Secondary School--Day Student (SAC-HS)	\$420	\$35*
Rapha's House--all ages, boarding only (SACF)	\$370	\$31*
Residential Primary School (SACF+PS)	\$180+\$370 = \$550	\$46*
Residential Secondary School (SACF+HS)	\$420+\$370 = \$790	\$66*

**We regret that we do not have the staff to handle monthly checks from all of our student sponsors. Sponsors who wish to pay on a monthly basis may do so through our website's "Donate" page by choosing "subscription" payments.*