

# Real Partners Uganda

Summer  
2019

## Impact! All Because of You

### MSA Pioneer Class, First Fruits

Nearly all of the Pioneer Class chose to join the innovative 2-year program that is being called Career Opportunity Pathways (COP). Students were carefully counseled about their pathways, taking into account their interests, strengths and the job market.

Five were supported in A Levels (upper level high school), and all five excelled. Each earned a full government scholarship in various degree programs!

One of the five was the **best student in the Country!** Ian completed the two years of A levels at St. Henry's Boys School (one of the best in Uganda) and took the UACE exam including three areas of special interest: physics, mathematics and economics. He had all perfect scores! He was invited to Kampala for a press conference celebrating this amazing accomplishment.

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*Ian giving words of thanks to faculty, staff, & sponsors on behalf of his classmates at the COP send-off celebration, March 2019*

### In 2018 You Provided:

- 202,000 **MEALS** served at MSA
- 540,000 hours of MSA **EDUCATION**
- 157,500 hours of **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**
- 3,700 hours of **ICT TRAINING** for graduates
- **MEDICAL CARE** for 710 students and staff
- **CLEAN WATER** for hundreds of students and villagers
- Excellent **JOBS** for 65 Ugandans



*Hamdan to the right of President Yoweri Museveni at the State House in Entebbe, December 2018*

### Rags to Riches: Hamdan Class of '17

Hamdan is currently in his second year of A levels at St. Henry's Boys School. Recently he posted on Facebook a series of photos from his life—from a little waif dressed in rags to a young man standing next to President Museveni as part of an elite quartet who were invited to sing at Christmas time at the State House. He posted: *Growing into a responsible man is God's providence and the sweat of other people to see you fed, studying, and clothed as well.*

His love of singing and song writing was nurtured along with his academic talent at Mustard Seed. Look where he is now!



## Greening the MSA 'Green Campus'

In 2016, on the Griswold family trip to Uganda, son, Jamie politely suggested that the campus looked a little 'unfriendly' with all of the chainlink fencing and not very much greenery. Of course, we agreed. Once the very basic buildings, water and electricity were in place, we were determined to incorporate one of our key values into the campus: stewardship of the environment. Tree planting began, and after Joe's death many of you gave memorial gifts to help with the greening project. Now, things have begun to change.

*Upper right, the back of Martha Block, the main Primary School building. Each class has an 'outdoor classroom.'*

*Far right, the dirt road that borders one side of the campus. The fence has been softened with flowers, vines and trees. Near right, Secondary Students enjoy class on the grass, in the shade of a big tree.*



*Problem: erosion, muddy shoes, dirty classrooms. Solution: Interlocking pavers creating walkways.. Below, the walkway begins near the main entrance to the campus at the Secondary School and continues past Martha Block to the back entrance. At the end of Martha Block the elevated water tanks and generator house can be seen. To the right is the toilet facility for the Primary School. Across the road is Rapha's House, the Tree of Life Children's Home.*





*Esther Ruth, right, is just one of many students who have become poets because of the workshops held by Diane Falk, Donna Paakkonen, and Signe Cullenly over the last 7 years. Thanks to Donna, MSA has a very popular poetry club!*

### Wish List

**Smartphones**—unlocked, with all personal information removed

The COP students can access the internet using smartphones and are able to do necessary research.

**DVDs**— wholesome entertainment for nursery through secondary kids

**Invitations**—to your club, church, etc. to present the Mustard Seed Story

**Sponsors**— 40 with 'urgent need' from Nursery School through COP

Support for **extra-curricular programs** such as Netball, Soccer, Music, Dance, Drama, Debate, Poetry, Chess

Support for new **school enterprises**, which are opportunities for even better education and sustainability initiatives

More **Greening**— More tree planting, more pavers, and an open-air shelter are all in the plan—awaiting funds



### Just Because of YOU!

*Oh, my lovely sponsors,  
angels sent to me from God,  
just to take care of me.*

*I am who I am today,  
an inspiration to others,  
Just because of you!*

*Oh, my lovely sponsors,  
you may perhaps not know  
what you do for me.*

*At first I had no ambition,  
but now, I have ambition,  
Just because of you!*

*Oh, my lovely sponsors,  
In our world we need change.  
I need to take part in the change,  
But before, I had no path  
to take part in the change,  
but now, I can take part  
in the change,  
Just because of you!*

—Esther Ruth S-4

### Pioneer Class (continued from Page 1)

Others from the class have finished technical training, still others, nursing and med tech certificates, and one has been employed by Mustard Seed Nursery School as a teacher. Their futures are bright, and there is hope for Uganda with such fine young people now in the workforce and soon to be in positions of leadership.

*Vincenzia, pictured far left, is a midwife and Tree of Life Ministries board member. She is proud to call all 6 of these students from the Pioneer Class her protégées. Having completed certificates in Nursing, Midwifery, and Med Tech, they are on the way to meaningful and successful lives.*



## Mandi Bray—Newest Volunteer



*Mandi Bray, far left, and family at Kakande's home in 2015*

When Mandi heard that RPU was looking for help with coordinating sponsorships, she immediately emailed asking for more information. We are so grateful for her willing response. In September 2015, Mandi, her husband and daughter traveled to East Africa. Reflecting on her journey, she wrote:

*After arriving at the Entebbe airport, we still had a several hours trip via car before we got to Lukaya and Mustard Seed Academy. The plan was to meet there for a late afternoon tour and then reconvene early the next morning to meet Kakande Francis, our sponsored student. As it turned out, Kakande, along with Deputy Head Teacher Kyambadde Francis, met us almost as soon as we arrived! I had no time to be nervous. There is nothing more rewarding than the ear to ear smiles that welcomed us! Kakande came with gifts of hardboiled eggs, sticks of sugar cane, fruits, and an amazing woven handcraft from his mother. This now hangs with other prized possessions in our home.*

*What the Griswolds and the Hiscocks imagined, and with much help, have realized in Africa is quite remarkable. The gift of an education is something we all take for granted, but seeing MSA first-hand made me appreciate more of what I have and the value my small donation makes to a needy child. The 36 hours I spent in Uganda visiting MSA was at least as rewarding as the prior 12 days I spent in Kenya on safari. Unfortunately, we can't all visit MSA, but we can continue to support the work of Real Partners Uganda and make a difference by sponsoring a child's education for as little as \$20 a month! I look forward to working with all the primary school sponsors and am excited to volunteer my time to help the children of Lukaya thrive. Contact me at: mandibray.rpu@gmail.com*

## When Is a Chicken More Than a Chicken?

Visitors who come to our little town of Lukaya, Uganda are overwhelmed by so many things. There is the noise and congestion of Kampala, the dirt roads, clustered small shops and poverty of Lukaya, and the contradictory green oasis, well-dressed and happy students of Mustard Seed Academy.

Barry came to meet his sponsored child, Sharon, a secondary school student who is boarding at MSA. After taking her shopping for shoes, Sharon asked if he would like to visit her home. We had a vehicle, and she said it wasn't far, just out in the village. After bumping down winding dirt roads for 30 minutes, we arrived, unannounced.

The grandmother was at her tidy home and upon seeing Sharon, began shrieking in delight. Her gratitude and joy was overwhelming as she sank to her knees giving thanks, saying prayers and even singing. She invited us all inside and welcomed us. To have four emissaries from her granddaughter's school arrive at her home was a momentous event. We waited for Sharon's mother to arrive and then made our apologies to leave.

Barry had not taken food with her, so she must give him a gift, she insisted. Grandmother chased down a



chicken in the yard and presented it to Barry, who graciously took it and thanked her. After politely holding it for a while, he gave it to an auntie close by. The chicken, a significant portion of this woman's wealth, was bestowed on a visitor who brought her granddaughter

home. It symbolized her love for her granddaughter, and it represented the enormous heart of the Ugandan culture to welcome and thank strangers.

—by Kathryn Hiscock