

# Partners' Progress-Uganda

The Newsletter of Real Partners Uganda, Inc.

Annual Report-2015

June 2016

## Big and Small Miracles

Lukaya: 2005-2015

The death of Brenda's parents when she was just 5, turned an intact family with 8 children upside down. She went to live with her grandmother who was overwhelmed by the number of children suddenly in her care—and there was no money for schooling. Because of a sponsorship, Brenda was able to join Good Shepherd nursery school, and then moved to Mustard Seed Academy for Primary 4. The next year, Brenda's grandmother needed to move away from Lukaya, but wanted Brenda to remain in school. She and Brenda requested placement in the school's orphans home. She has been there for 7 years and will graduate from MSA secondary school at the end of 2016. It is a tribute to Brenda and the MSA family that she rose up from tragic losses to become one of the highest scoring students on the national Primary Leavers Exam in 2012. Articulate, competitive, athletic, and beautiful—all describe this miracle girl.



Deborah (left) and Brenda, two hard-working and delightful secondary students.

Her friend Deborah, a year younger, is a child of a Rwandan refugee family. She lost her father when she was 3, and moved around three different countries before ending up in Lukaya. Shortly after she came to MSA, her mother decided to move again, leaving Deborah with a friend who began mistreating her. Deborah, too, joined the original group at Rapha's. She says in a recent letter, "I am doing well in school, and I am fighting tooth and nail so that I score 8 aggregates (a perfect score) on my senior four...(exam)."

These are just two of the hundreds of "miracle children" we are blessed to care for at Mustard Seed Academy. **They weave the fabric of a much larger story of tragedy, loss, love and recovery.** That story has inspired Americans and Ugandan partners in Lukaya to grow a school program from very (continued on page 2)

*Note from Joe and Elaine Griswold: As you read this newsletter, our immediate family of seven (son James, his wife Karen, their two daughters, plus our daughter's daughter) will be on the 8,000 mile trip to Uganda for a ten-day visit. It is a bittersweet journey because our daughter, Martha Griswold-Quijano, passed away last August. Martha had been fighting a brain tumor for 11 years, and during all of that time continued as a great advocate for the work of RPU. She longed to visit Africa, but her health issues prevented the trip. Members of the RPU Board of Directors recommended that the first permanent classroom building on the Green Campus be named to honor her, and we will be there to participate in the dedication. The struggle during her final year overwhelmed our efforts to produce the newsletter and to update the RPU website. We hope now to return to a normal publication schedule. Thanks for being understanding.....and for all the support during this difficult time.*

modest beginnings in 2005 to a remarkable, high performing Academy (see the chart below). The RPU annual budget, of which more than 95% goes directly to work in Uganda, has grown steadily to over \$400,000. While Mustard Seed and related programs at Tree of Life Ministries have become the largest employer in Lukaya, RPU is still operated entirely by American volunteers. We have much to celebrate and be thankful for, and many new challenges ahead.

### Growth & Impact of Real Partners

Measure	2005	2015
Student numbers	42	550
Ugandan employees	4	63
RPU Annual Budget	\$6,000	\$412,700
Number of Partners in USA	45	over 500
American employees (RPU)	0	0

## How Far We Have Come.....Next?

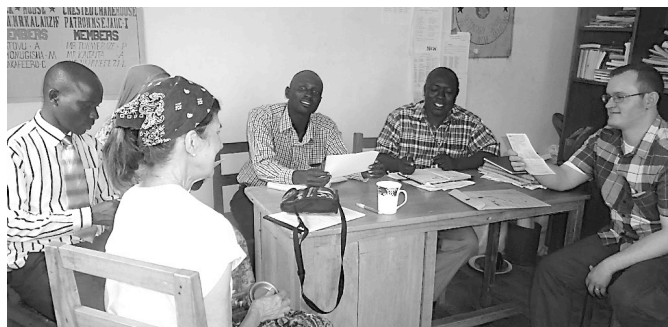
For more than a decade RPU partners have worked hand-in-hand with a growing Ugandan staff to educate and care for hundreds of the poorest children in Lukaya. Now is a time for celebrating some remarkable achievements--and dreaming forward. The fruits of our effort are right before us--34 teenagers finishing Senior-4 and ready to graduate from Mustard Seed Secondary School. By those who know them they are described as: bright, motivated, healthy, polite, happy, well-adjusted, and growing in faith. In spite of their rough backgrounds, they have matured into confident, caring and capable young adults. They are extremely grateful to their sponsors who have made their journeys possible.

But, they have questions: Where will we go? What will we do? What guidance and resources will we have? Who will be our loving "parents"?

The Partnership has responded: "We will continue to love each of you and walk with you as we answer those questions together." And so the ideas have emerged for a two-year Career Opportunities Program. It will be an experience of guided discovery, training, further education, faith development and giving back. It will include a home base during breaks and holidays at Mustard Seed Academy. The journey from high school graduation to a career may be made in many different ways: vocational programs, internships, volunteering, military, as well as college and university. And, with proper guidance, a path can be tailored to each student. We know that 'one size does not fit all.'

This unique transition program is a vital missing link in connecting secondary education with careers. Most high schools prepare their students to pass a national exam and then wave them goodbye. Often they move into unemployment. The same is frequently true for university graduates. Only the elite few win scholarships, and even they have many uncovered costs. The failed transition between school and career is a key reason Uganda remains mired in poverty.

The Career Opportunity Program (COP) will have some new elements that create win-win outcomes for all involved. Students in COP will give back to Tree of Life Ministries especially during breaks and holiday periods. They will live on campus, helping in cooking, caring for young students, tailoring, gardening and groundskeeping, as well as working in construction, maintenance, or hospitality. They will benefit from good accommodations, food, supervision, and guidance.



Diane Falk and Joe Everett, at work with Mustard Seed faculty planning a careers opportunity program for the class of 2016.

## News Briefs

### In the United States:

RPU operations got a huge boost with the addition of long-time supporter and volunteer Deborah Enderlin. Debbie retired from working with the Atlantic City, NJ government in 2015, and added RPU to her impressive list of volunteer activities. Debbie's administrative experience has helped her quickly pick up the complexities of the Sponsorship Program at RPU. We welcome Debbie and hope it won't be long before she can make it to Uganda to meet the children and teachers in person.

**The 6th Annual Auction to benefit Mustard Seed Academy drew the biggest crowd ever.** It was a delightful event co-chaired by RPU Board members Lee Whitton and Diane Falk, assisted by a host of volunteers from Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church, Absecon PC and Community PC in Brigantine. The proceeds will be used to upgrade facilities at the Tree of Life Children's Home (Rapha's House).

### In Uganda

For the fourth straight year, graduating P-7 students from MSA topped all other schools in Lukaya in performance on the national leavers exam. Over 90% of the class got "first or second grades (A's or B's)" and all passed--keeping the school's record intact.

During 2016, Primary-7 candidates are being joined by the secondary students in Senior-4 in a year of study pointed toward success on the national exams. For the first time there are *real* boys and girls dorms to house the candidates. We expect

these talented students to do a great job, demonstrating the fruits of their hard work and the power of the MSA program.

**For over three years, the Green Campus community has been struggling to get enough drinkable water.** The situation began to change in June 2015 because of a Rotary International Global Grant and a non-profit called Living Water International. LWI drilled two bore holes on the campus and tried to develop them to produce clear water. When that failed, they came back and drilled in a third location, which produces lots of good water. We thank the

Rotary Clubs of Slippery Rock, PA and Lukaya for partnering in the Global Grant that made this all possible.

**The Auction at Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church in June 2015 raised over \$10,000 to outfit a computer lab at Mustard Seed Academy.** Eight months later, a location in a secure building was

ready to house the new laboratory. Former RPU Board Member and long-time supporter Tom Sheridan traveled to Uganda in February to work with the computer teacher and configure sixteen laptops and one desktop. Computers were attached to custom-made tables, and the room carefully secured. Students and staff are very excited to have the new facility. Many thanks to Tom and Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church.

**The "Christmas in September" offering for food packages was a huge success, with over 550 gifts being given out on Dec. 23, 2015, creating much joy and excitement.** Many thanks to the churches that participated. The gift of food was particularly important this year because the Christmas break was extended for national elections. When kids are not in school, poor families struggle to feed their children.

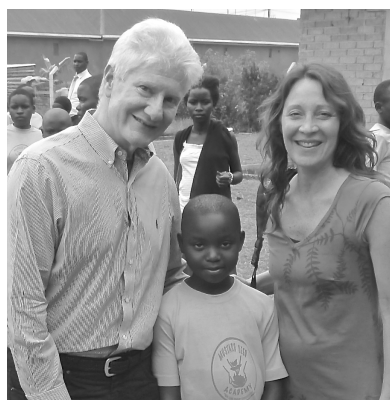


The current kitchen at Rapha's House that will be replaced soon.



"Judy's House," the new girls dormitory on the Green Campus. Both Primary 7 and Secondary 4 girls are staying in this fine, new building that has 8 large bedrooms.





Visitors with sponsored children: Tom Sheridan & Sheila Papa (left), Ellie Corbett & Robert Bray with Teacher Francis.  
Below left, Kathryn Hiscock working on the nursery school mural. Below right, Ken Bennet with granddaughter Hailey at Lake Mburo.



## Visitors to Tree of Life Ministries

Many Americans, and at least one British visitor, came to MSA/TOLM during the last year. Both Ugandan staff and students are encouraged and enriched by the 'foreign' experiences. All of the visitors have also reported being changed by the encounter. We have heard time and again: "It is worth the time, distance, and money for a priceless experience."

Please, contact us if you are interested in having a life-changing experience such as the ones that the individuals listed below had recently. We can tailor your experience if we have lead time.

Judy Sconyers, WV  
Donna Paakkonen, MN  
Jill Morgan, MN  
Leah Fairhurst, MN  
Tom Sheridan, PA  
Sheila Papa, DE  
Diane Falk, NJ  
Joe Everett, NJ  
Ken Bennett, PA  
Hailey Bennett, NY

Judy Hughes, PA  
Kathryn Hiscock, NJ  
Dana Hiscock, NJ  
Mandi Bray, NJ  
Robert Bray, NJ  
Ellie Corbett, NJ  
Joe Griswold, NJ  
Elaine Griswold, NJ  
Ursula Payne, PA  
David Lambert, UK,  
(Architect)

## RPU Board of Directors 2015

Kenneth E. Bennett  
Diane Falk, Ph.D., Secretary  
Elaine E. Griswold, Exec. Director  
Joseph Griswold, Ph.D., President  
Dana Hiscock, Treasurer  
Kathryn Hiscock, Vice President  
E. Lee Whitton

## RPU Board of Advisers 2015

Rev. John R. Scotland  
Judy Sconyers  
Kristen Pettet

## RPU Staff 2015

Our staff continued to be an all-volunteer group with directors and advisers putting in many hours and traveling long distances to help keep administrative costs to a minimum.

## RPU's Fiscal Year 2015 Overview

The Directors of RPU are especially grateful to the donors whose generosity made the great progress in Uganda possible.

Opening Balance 1/1/15	\$224,513
INCOME	
Donations (Capital)	\$30,437
Donations (Operations)	\$265,003
Foundation & Trust Grants	\$100,000
Equity Accounts-Restricted*	-\$2,516
Total Income	\$392,925
EXPENSE	
Grants given to TOLM Capital	\$222,890
Grants given to TOLM Operations	\$186,200
RPU Operations (banking, office)	\$1,939
Contract services	\$1,343
Public relations	\$325
Total Expense	\$412,697
Net Income	-\$19,772
Ending Balance 12/31/15	\$204,741

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



Donor Honor Roll 2014 & 2015

*Amazed. Inspired. Grateful. That's how your generosity makes us and the Ugandan beneficiaries feel. Thank You!*

Absecon Presby. Church	Timothy Cross	Michael Grant	Ronald & Carol Knecht
Richard & Jane Albers	Laura Cross	Judith Gray	Barbara Knoell
Mary Alexander	CSURE Children's Park	Sandi & Douglas Greene	Susan Kocmond
Frank & Paula Allebaugh	Joseph & Signe Cullen	Cindra Greenlee	Michael & Sara Kramer
Michael Allen	Thomas & Linda Cullen	Elizabeth Griffiths	Greg & Judith Lamendola
Barbara & Glenn Allison	John Dacey	George Grinestaff	Donald & Gail Landzettel
Christopher & Jean Angell	Toby Davidow	Lora Grinestaff	Karen Lapidus
Salvatore & Janet Architto	Claudia Day	James & Karen Griswold	Mark Larimer
Michael & Lesley Arlein	Judith Dederick	Joseph & Elaine Griswold	Joe & Carole LeBoon
Anonymous	Anthony DeLuca &	Kenneth & Alice Groome	Chu Pei Lee
Peter & Lori Arnet	Gayle Tegler	Mark Gross	The Mele-Lee Family
Mary Fran Asmus	Eugene & Elbeth Devlin	Mary Gross	Rosemarie Leeds
Skip & Katherine Atwater	Gail Doscher	Judith Hall	Robert Lehrburger
Joel & Marilyn Bamford	Harold & Donna Downing	Mohammed Hameed	Daniel Lemons
Justin Bean	Wendy Draina	Paul & Marjorie Hamer	Karen & Roger Lentz
Bob & Donna Becker	Jane & Larry Droppa	Lee & Nicky Harp	Ernest & Phyllis Lepori
Diane Bell	Theodore & Betty Eckels	Susan Harper	Jeffrey Lewis
Dawn & Ken Bennett	Foundation	Hope Hartman	Betty Lloyd
Kenneth Bennett	Sandra Eiker	Joan Haughey	Robert & Ann LoBue
Nancy Bennett	Emanuel Lutheran Church	John & Jan Hazard	Joe Lofton
Winifred Bennett	Deb & Cherie Enderlin	Phyllis Heffner	Paul Lombardo
Janet Benway	Joe & Sandy Everett	Gertrudis Heiliger	Chuck & Diane Long
Don & Jean Bereheiko	Dennis Faherty	Lori & Dorie Herndon	Daniel Lowenthal
Stephanie Beritsky	David Falk	Steven & Nancy Herrmann	Brian Lundin
Richard & Carol Ann Berry	Diane Falk	Andrew Herz	Rosalie Luthi
Paul & Gail Beverly	Mary Farmer	Regina Herz	Ruth MacFarland
Mary Bew	Edward & Ruth Ann	Catherine Higbee	Ken & Lynn MacLaughlin
Michael & Beth Bliss	Feinberg	Jonathan Hill	Richard & Carol MacNett
Susan Bloom	Sue & John Ferguson	Deborah & Norbert Hirst	Jean MacPherson
John & Barbara Bowlin	Bruce & Diane Firkins	Bill Hiscock	Bruce Mactas
Robert & Mandi Bray	FirstGiving	Dana & Kathryn Hiscock	Richard Magovern
Rosemary Brennan	John & Agnes Fisher	Hiscock-Sproat Family	Mike & Lisa Maine
Nancy Brickman	Fithian-McGovern Family	James & Gina Hiscock	Francis & Patricia Maloney
Sandy Brooks	Philip & Kathleen Forlenza	Elaine Hogan	Adeel Mangi
Anita Brown	James & Jackie Fortunato, Jr.	John & Linda Howell	Manna Ministries
Bob & Marilyn Bryslawskyj	Joseph & Barbara	Judy Hughes	Worldwide
Henry & Amy Bubel	Fortunato, Jr.	Rebecca Hurt &	Jacqueline Markoff
Wm. C. Bullitt Foundation	Colleen Furey	Mark Sadowski	Chris & Sally Marshall
Carlos Burns	Michael & Dana Gabrysz	Catherine Husa-Husseini	Christine Martin
Eileen Canavan	Lynn & Bob Gale	Philip & Mary Ingraham	Gerard & Roberta Martin
Libby & Bob Canavan	Marsha Galespie	Diane Intenzo	Michael & Ellen Martin
Ken & Judy Carbone	Jane Gallagher	Susan Ireland	Peg Martin
Everett & Linda Carr	Robert & Cynthia Gallagher	John N. Irwin	Ginger Mastrangelo
Amelia Cave	Johanna Garfield	Janice Jaarsma	Edward McCarron
Center for Creative Learning	Samira Gargash	Ryan & Darcy Jaarsma	McCleary-Griswold Family
Gay Channell	Carolyn Gaver	Shannon Jackson	Joseph & Bunny McGee
Julianne Childs	Bruce Geary	Lucille & Robert Jerue	John & Constance McGinty
Brian & Dianne Clark	Janet Gee	Norman Johnson	John & Marie McGlone
David & Janice Cobb	The Gehm Family	Larry & Ilse Jones	Rick McGovern &
Community Presby. Church	Mary Gibbs	JustGive Inc.	Terri Fithian
Ralph & Patricia Compton	Gipsman & Davidoff	James Keller	Marjorie McGuigan
Nancy Conover	Girl Scouts Heart of NJ,	Shirley Kerr	Denise McKenna
Doug & Mary Cooper	Inc. Troop 1006	Richard Kilbride	Andrea McKiernan
Jana Cooper	David Glaser	Mary Kimura	Christine McLaughlin
Jim & Shirley Cortelyou	Fatima Goldman	Richard & Janis Kinoshita	Marjorie McLaughlin
Judith & Peter Cosentino	Howard Goldschmidt, MD	Kiwanis Club of	Deanna McMillian
Terry & Sidnye Couch	Margaret Gormly	Atlantic City	Loretta Metz
Debbie Craig	Yael Goverover	Claire & Judy Kleiner	Bernie Milano &
Gary & Sharon Cresse	Teresa & Douglas Gragg	Joanne Kline	Sharon Pierson

Grace Miley  
Barbara Miller  
Philip Miller  
Phyllis Miller  
Robert D. Mitchell  
George & Julie Mosher  
Carol Lynn Myers  
Mike & Judi Nath  
Martha Nisley  
Austin Noll  
Mike & Donna O'Brien  
Bernard & Kathleen O'Hare  
Oak Grove Lutheran  
Church (MN)  
Ocean Heights Presby.  
Church, EHT, NJ  
William Otto  
Donna Paakkonen  
Sharon Paakkonen  
Shaun Padgett  
Gerald Paige  
Bowen & Jong Ae Pak  
Sheila Papa  
Pamela Paparone  
Craig & Ann Patterson  
Margaret Patterson  
Kevin Patton  
Susan Perry  
Andrew & Teri Peterson  
Kristen Pettet  
Gloria Phares  
Betsy Phillips  
Joanne & Ernie Phillips  
Diane Pierce &  
Shelly O'Leary  
Debbie & Stephany  
Piermattei  
Linda Pintard  
Robert & Barbara Pirie  
Kathy Jane Pizzuto  
Ponagansett Foundation

Sally Ponchak  
Barry Poskanzer  
Robert & Ingrid Previti  
Carl Prieser  
Sandra Purinton  
Martha & Sara Quijano  
Joe & Joan Ralph  
Geraldine L. Reedell  
Joanne Reger  
JoAnn & Bert Reinauer  
Paralee & Phil Restivo  
Kathleen Revelle  
Ellis Reynolds  
Alexander & Suzanne Rhea  
Foundation  
Richard Stockton College  
Gerard & Jill Riera  
John & Betsy Rogge  
Dick Rosenbaum  
& Jane Dieckmann  
Phyllis Ross  
Bert & Nicky Rottkamp  
Karen & Amanda Roy  
Brenda Rupp  
Daniel Ruzumna  
Robert & Diann Ryan  
Mark Sadowski &  
Rebecca Hurt  
Robert & Lynda Safron  
Kenneth & Susan Sankin  
Lori Jo Sarfert  
Jackie Sarner  
Robin Sarner  
Paul & Jo-Ann Scarlett  
Herbert & Rita Schaeffer  
Carlo & Micol Schejola  
Foundation  
Bob & Sue Schilling  
Judith Schlegel  
John & Patricia Schmeltzer  
Douglas & Cathy Schmidt

Roy & Sabina Schmidt  
Patricia Ann Schnur  
Susan Schwarz  
Michael Sciarrotta  
Jacob Sconyers  
James Sconyers  
Judith Sconyers  
Peter Scotese  
John & Anne Scotland  
John & Betsy Seairight  
Karl & Joan Seib  
Thomas Sheridan  
Tyler Shoyer  
Peter Shriver  
Freya Shroff  
Slippery Rock Rotary  
Foundation  
Doris Smith  
Shirley Smith  
Patty Spanton  
Kelly & Jennifer Squires  
Michael Squires  
Nancy Squires  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
St. Philip's Episcopal  
Church (OK)  
Holly Stanton  
S.T.A.R. Sisterhood  
Henry & Linda Steffens  
Robert & Joanne Stiefbold  
Seymour Stotland  
Marion Stout & Judy Stout  
Amy Straub  
Steven & Karen Swecker  
Ernie & Joan Szeker  
Linda Tanfani  
Ann Taylor  
Sandra Taylor  
L. Toto  
Frances Train

Trinity Episc. Church,  
Allendale, NJ  
George Tucci  
Michael & Carol Tveite  
Richard Upton  
Joyce Vanaman  
Cole & Harriet Vandewater  
James VanSkiver  
Jeff & Kelly VanSkiver  
Julia Vazquez  
Barry & Debi Veenstra  
Michael & Randi Venema  
Sonia Wagner &  
Bruce Powers  
Barbara Walwik  
Russell & Linda Webster  
Edmund Wehrle  
Londa Weisman  
Patrice Wells  
Carlton Whatley  
Cecile Whitehead  
Michael & Kathy Whitmore  
Jane Whittaker  
E. Lee Whitton  
Mary Anne Whylings  
Peter Wilby  
Richard & Tanna Williams  
John Winter  
Craig Witcher  
Julie Witcher  
Ruth Witherspoon  
Ann Wittman  
John Wolfson  
David & Sylvia Wright  
William & Linda Wright  
Mike & Katie Yeager  
Your Cause LLC  
Barbara Zacny  
Ernestine Zeli-Bove

The above list reflects donations received from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015. 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. In addition, many people have donated countless hours and talents to carry out our work here and in Uganda. If you would prefer to have your name(s) listed differently, or not at all, please send us an email or note. We will make every effort to honor your wishes.

## In Memoriam Gifts

*We are grateful for donations that have been given in memory of:*

Jack Beckwermert, Kathy Chambers,  
David Jaarsma, Mary Gross,  
Ed Kamuda, Lillian Miller,  
Martha Griswold-Quijano,  
Joseph E. Ralph, Sr., Julia Vazques,  
Russell Webster, Richard MacNett



*"...due to prayers, funds and courage you give us,  
we consider you as our great heroes."*