



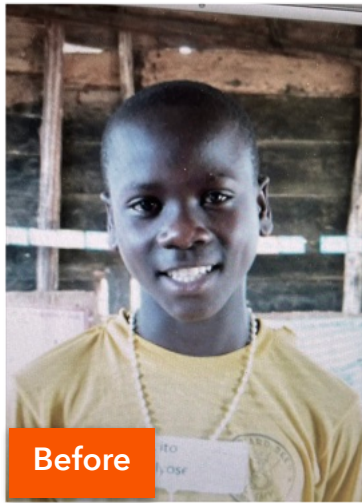
Partners' Progress

We're pleased to share highlights from our recent February–March visit to Mustard Seed Academy. We hope you can feel the love, pride, and appreciation expressed by students. Enjoy.

—Kathryn, Dana, and Elaine

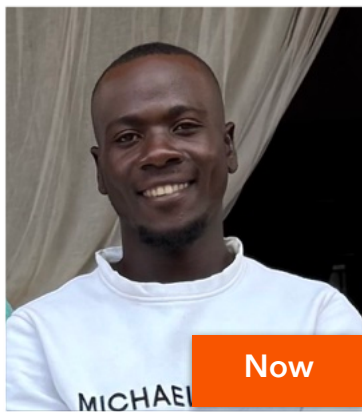
If I had a hammer... From hopeless to helpful

By Dana and Kathryn Hiscock



As young Mustard Seed Primary School students, Kalyose and his sister Christine lived with their parents and many siblings in a tiny ramshackle house where the roof leaked and walls seemed ready to collapse. There was no bedding and never enough food. They often went to bed on empty stomachs.

Our CEO, George Kateregga, visited their neighborhood and saw the terrible conditions. He arranged for the two siblings to move into Rapha's House, the only boarding facility on campus at that time. There, they would be safe and receive nurturing care.



Top left, Kalyose is pictured when he was in Primary 4 in 2012. He is now 25 years old and has the same winning smile.

Kalyose graduated from Mustard Seed's O-Levels in 2019. Then, he attended Kisubi Technical Institute, getting a certificate in bricklaying and construction.

George has known Kalyose since he was that little boy he rescued. When new construction began at Mustard Seed, George asked the builder to give this young man a chance to work on the crew. It proved to be a very smart decision. Kalyose is a very hard worker and has been willing to learn and perfect his skills.

We caught up with Kalyose on this past trip in March. We asked him to walk us through the newest buildings— the O-Level classroom block, the boys' dorm, and two latrines.

This shy, soft-spoken young man lit up with the opportunity to explain the finer points of construction and answer our questions. He blossomed with pride, and for once, there was no reticence in his communication as he enjoyed telling us what he knew. He even remarked that his English was very good, and he was proud of that. ...Continued on page 2

As unofficial guardians of Mustard Seed students, we worry about the paths they take after leaving our school. We were delighted and encouraged by Kalyose's perspective on his work and how he was acquiring more knowledge and respect. A move to foreman, then manager, would not be beyond his reach.

He remains ever grateful for his sponsors and other supporters and how they changed his life.



Kalyose walking with Kathryn to the new boys' dormitory

The Environmental Club

Meet the Environmental Club's cabinet members and their patron, geography teacher Reagan. March 21st was International Day of Forests, and the club convened to celebrate.

Celebrating at Mustard Seed is not a simple matter— there were speeches, and a special song about the environment was composed and sung. Club members presented poems about trees, and the primary students shared an interactive poem.



The environmental club cabinet members and patron, Teacher Reagan.

The school's chief organic gardener, Rehema, had prepared fifty Moringa tree seedlings – ready to be planted by the club members. One might ask, why Moringa trees?

According to Rehema, **“Moringa is the Miracle Tree that has many important vitamins and minerals. The leaves have about as much potassium as a banana and the same amount of vitamin C as an orange. It also has calcium, protein, iron, and amino acids, which help your body heal and build muscle.”**

The powdered Moringa leaves will be added to the school's meals, making them even more nutritious and delicious.

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Grateful Reflections

by Elaine Griswold

Stepping through the Mustard Seed gate, I am filled with joy. The campus feels like an oasis for learning and growth. It's a happy place (see page 4), and the start of the new school year adds to the excitement.

Working with teachers and their students is always a highlight. Younger students eagerly used new crayons on coloring pages, while the older kids worked intently on "All about me" worksheets (photos below).

Secondary school exam results were announced nationwide, and Mustard Seed students excelled! The teacher-appreciation party, made possible by donor support, boosted morale and strengthened the community. The staff continues to mention it weeks later—and I'm still smiling about the change your support makes in the lives of the whole school community.



Teacher Reagan (left) and student Elvis (right) planting their Moringa trees.

...The Environmental Club, continued from page 2

Club members stood on the "Green Campus," as it was originally named. Leaders described the green vision for this land—shade trees, colorful flowers, and plants producing fruit. Soon, they will both witness and contribute to this ambitious dream becoming a reality.

Leaders made an exciting announcement. The environmental club will learn fruit tree horticulture and then plant trees in a central area of the school campus.

Generous RPU donors gave 100 new fruit trees—ten each of ten different varieties. These trees will soon transform a barren area into a Memory Grove and serve many purposes. First, it will create a living tribute to honor loved ones. It will also provide a tranquil, shaded sanctuary for relaxing and quiet reflection. Fresh fruits from these trees will enrich school meals.

Beyond these concrete benefits, the fruit forest embodies sustainable agroforestry principles. It will improve soil health, provide natural cooling, and create a healthier ecosystem on campus.

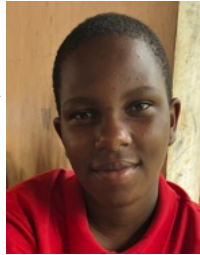
As an educational resource, the fruit trees will provide opportunities for students to develop skills they can share with their families and communities, extending the impact of these trees far beyond the school boundaries.

The environmental club members are enthusiastic about leading the student body in caring for and protecting the new plantings.

Changing Lives

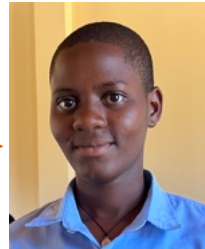
We asked older students how their lives changed after joining Mustard Seed Secondary School. Their honest answers about finding community, improving grades, growing personally, and meeting basic needs show how your generosity transforms lives. From over 100 responses, these few examples highlight the real impact of your support.

I first joined Mustard Seed on 9th February 2025, and my life was as if I had entered heaven.



At my former school, there was no electricity, so we could not read our books. Most days, our teachers were absent.

I feel comfortable at Mustard Seed and really enjoy the environment because I have been cared for as a newborn baby.



When I came, I felt peace, love, joy, and a luxurious life.

I gained confidence and learned to share because of the saying, "At Mustard Seed, we share."

Whenever I need something, my teachers are there. May the Almighty God bless you.



I learned to give myself respect as I give it to others.

I learned good morals.

I no longer worry. I changed physically because of the healthy meals we are fed in our beloved school. May God bless you!



I learned games like netball, chess, etc.

I love my school; it is the best of the best.



I sincerely thank all our supporters who provide us with all we need. Though you never knew us, you're making sure we succeed in life and become important people.