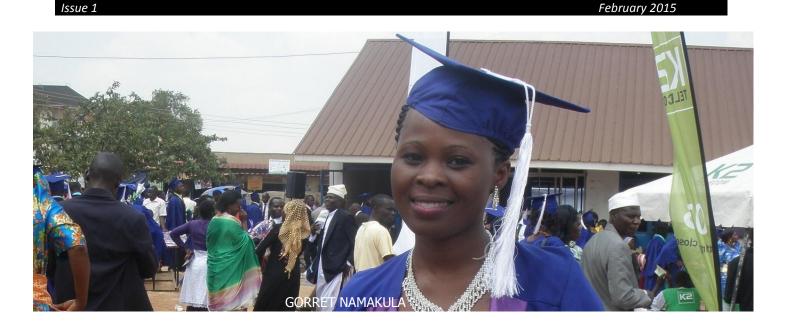
WIDE SMILES FOR ALL THROUGH EDUCATION

Voice of Hope

Equal opportunities of all for a better Uganda

, ,,



We continually thank you our sponsors for supporting our students. Members of Grace Lutheran Church we love you dearly and have the pleasure to inform you that on $31^{\rm st}$ January 2015 Gorret Namakula graduated with a Diploma in Secretarial Studies of Buganda Royal Institute of Business and Technical Education – Kakeka Mengo campus. Please thank you so much for her support through us since her senior two.

In the same way Moreen Nakayiza graduated on 27th February 2015 with a Diploma in Secondary Education of Muteesa I Royal University. Lilian Nabulime graduated with a Bachelor in Mass Communication of Muteesa I Royal University. All our students would have not been able to realize their dreams without your support, we're proud of you and you're the only reason they can now pose with a smile on their face! May God bless and reward the work of your generous hands. Over 60 students who have gone through our hands have completed their studies and in this

issue over 20, their names is listed. It has not been a flat road though to reach this remarkable victory and without you and your support no way we would claim such conquest.





Oliver graduated With a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration of Nkumba University. Thank you very Much Yvonne for Supporting Oliver Since senior three. Oliver is an Independent Business Consultant. She has a family Blessed with a

daughter and her husband is a law graduate of the same university. Congratulations Oliver!

In the recent past, over 60 students we have assisted to complete their studies in different fields, these included: Mawanda Samuel - Mechanical Technician, Kavuma Festo -Carpenter, Busulwa Matthew - Electrician, Namugerwa - Fashion and Garment Designer, Namwezi Venah – Practical Nurse, Ssendagire Benon – Motor Vehicle Technician, Alice - Business practitioner, Sylivia Najjuma - IT specialist, Sylivia Nakimuli - Peace maker and legal consultant, Namugayi Prossy – Beautician, Namuwonge Sarah Dorothy - Practical Nurse, Namugayi Jane - Caterer, Margret Nalukenge - secondary Teacher, Isaac Newton Lubanga -Carpenter/Electrician, Angela - Counselor, Lukwago Joseph -Information systems specialist, Ssekanjako Julius - Secondary Teacher, Kitumba C. Baker - Electrician, Isaac Ssekyanzi -Electrician, Etra. Please thank you for your support.

Currently, at Wide Smiles as we are growing, we are faced with a challenge hindering our service delivery. organization started with 10 students and so far now in hundreds! We're faced with a problem of transport. Till now, we are still relaying on the mercy of public means of transport to move our services to our people. This not only stresses our budget, but also turns out to be inefficient in terms of service delivery. You cannot manage your time while depending on public means of transport. During graduation ceremonies of our students we would love to drive them in such a glory to the schools where the ceremonies are being held, without having to hire vehicles. When you do not hire a special vehicle students will be late for the function. We are therefore, appealing to our supporters and well wishers, to support our administration acquire a Vehicle to easy the work of Administering and supervision of the organization's activities. About \$ 12,000 could get us a used vehicle (8 seats). We have therefore, started the campaign looking for that fund to buy a service vehicle. This is a goal we want to attain this year 2015.

Sylivia Najjuma graduated in Feb 2014 with a Bachelor Degree in Information Technology (BIT) of Muteesa I Royal University. Sylivia is proposing to start a Communication shop in Kanoni area in Gomba District. She wants to help Easy communication challenge in the area. One to access internet connection has to travel over 30 miles to reach Mpigi and when you find there is no Power, you either continue to the capital city Kampala, or go back. This means a whole day wasted and no work done! She feels this is not right And something should be done.



Svlivia

Prosy Nabakooza, is the first girl Rev. Dr. Carolyn Langford supported through Wide Smiles. She finished as school teacher grade III. Prosy was such a gifted student with a sense of focus. I had a phone conversation with her one time and she informed me how she was planning to upgrad for grade V (Diploma in Primary Education). She caught me by surprise when I met with her at the University graduating with a Bachelor of Education Degree, of Muteesa I Royal University. When she started working she was able to support her education to a degree. We have no doubt that her hard working will continue to light her future. Thank you so much Prosy, We're so proud of you.



Many of us, in one way or another have cerebrated success or an achievement.

Many also share a common fact that success to happen, the achiever should have gone through a series of challenges. Problems we encounter to climb the Mountain or success teaches us how best to benefit from them if at any one moment they turn around. A friend said that possibly, I'm limited by or with my knowledge about success. He said to my face that not everyone successful struggled to attain success!

However, It did not take us a whole day to establish a common conclusion that if one has not struggled for his or her success, someone else must have done so, and you were that one's responsibility at that time whether before or after your existence. Imperatively to note however, some challenges are so infringing and when come to the powerless can terminate their future or limit their success or achievement to full capacity.

Here is a personal experience which I believe that jointly in our jurisdictions can do something to help those in need. You can share the message with a friend, house mates women's club and or any other for the Ugandan Girl Students.

My experience this time is about girl students' **sanitary tissues** [sanitary pads]. For economic reasons I have not been serving girl students with these important items in their lives yet so important for making a difference in their lives most especially during school time.

When I was a secondary student in form three in my rural school, I had unpleasant experience in my life which affected me in some way and went so deep in my soul. It was during examination period and before entering the examination hall, supervising teachers of a particular exam had to make sure that none of the students entered the examination hall with prior written material. I did understand the reason for doing so, it was to avoid students who would want to cheat on an examination. One way to avoid the bad act was to make sure no student entered the hall with Jackets regardless of weather condition of the day. This time, there was this girl who managed to enter the examination room with her Jacket tied around her waist. She tied it around in a way that it was covering her back. When a teacher came to serve question papers and answer sheets, he asked us all in the hall to stand on our legs which we did. This male teacher (names withheld) was teaching luganda literature subject in the school. He asked the girl with a Jacket to remove it, she politely said to him 'sir I do have a problem' on top of his voice the teacher replied 'what problem? Don't tell me your problems and just do as I said!' He caused attention of the entire students to

this particular girl. He also started beating her with a stick on her head and on the shoulders. She then untied the Jacket in tears! I was seated on the Desk just behind her and we did realize she was not safe at her back. In our culture (The Ganda) many issues concerning women or girls are considered very private and they're entitled to such privacy than anyone else in the home setting which cultural values are expected to be carried to schools as well. I cannot blame you if don't understand what it means in our setting and Uganda being a multilingual, but this girl (My class mate), sat down in tears and was very humiliated. I did realize that many girls checked themselves and were very aggravated with the teacher's act. Some unserious boys yelled at her with different voices such as "Shame upon you girl, poor, how could you, go away...extra". This teacher who caused the discomforting situation was too proud of himself! Did not even say sorry to the students not even to the girl he violated her privacy and put her in such a mess, he did not seem bothered at all.

She was one of the bright students in the class, but this time was not brave enough to write this particular exam! She was only able to write a name on her answer sheet and stayed in the room until everyone else left the examination hall.

This girl and her friends used to walk from a place called Ngomanene to my school every day and returning to her home every day (her parents could not afford fees for a boarding section). She was approximately walking 12 miles a day in her search for education at my secondary school(It was the best secondary school in the entire county). Though we had just started writing exams and had some other days [about 8] to continue the exercise, the next day the embarrassed girl did not appear to school. In fact she decided to drop out of school and did not continue with her education in any other school. She was better than me at school. Her education career did not go beyond that day. The reason for her dropping out of the school system was because she was not able to acquire sanitary pad to keep her back safe.

Today there are still many other girls failing to attend school or dropping from school, because they do not have sanitary pads and they would rather choose to stay home than facing such an embarrassment. Some day scholars decide to stay home and miss school while in their Cycle period and return after the cycle, they do this every month. Some Boarding students decide to stay in the dormitories than attending class, because they do not feel safe to come to class while in the cycle until it is over. One student openly said to me that she stays in the cycle for a period between four to six days. Those are **eighteen days of missing class activities** and cocurricular activities at school (18) in a term of **Sixty six days** of study (66) or school days in a term.

I know you do understand that in our setting girls were generally ignored when it comes to education, public service and other activities which would empower them to make independent decisions our communities, and today we are talking about gender balance and Girls having to compete with their boy counterparts in school. I know you know that

boys if other factors remains constant have to attend school and class all the 66 days of the school term, and many girls

Continue to stay behind boys 18-20 days in a school term. The grounds are clearly not leveled for many girls to competently compete with boys in a school setting. Me and you we can do something about this God willing! As a teachers by professional and with a calling to serve my community i know this is a lot of time girls miss and also with my ten years experience with supporting children to have education please don't doubt my experience when I tell you that girls can actually be the best if supported in their basic needs. I promised myself when I was young that I will do something to

Help in some way to change the situation of girl students in my community to make their education joyful. It is one way I inspired myself to become a teacher. I am telling you this because, because I feel concerned and hoping that you will to, at the end of my story. Please anyone out there; I need your help so that I may help my sisters in Christ.

This year we want to offer a New Year present to girl students at both Mpenja and Kasaka Secondary schools both found in Gomba District. We want to buy for them Sanitary Pads and also get a plat form to speak to teachers that we're watching them and the students to know that we're standing by their side to support and protect their dignity. We want to support 700 girl students in both schools.

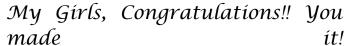
We want to give each girl student 3 packets of sanitary pads (These are enough for one Academic term – 3 months). This makes a total of **2,100** sanitary packets needed for a term. For the whole year of 3 academic terms, we shall need **6,300** packets. Each packet costs Uganda Shillings **3,500**. For the First term we shall need Uganda Shillings **7,350,000**. For the 3 academic terms we shall need Uganda Shillings **22,050,000**.

Please help me realize my dream and thank you for your time to read my story. Together we can. I am so grateful for your devotion and support towards human dignity, even just helping one student will mean a lot. Thank you for reading my

story.

God bless you Kenneth Kasule Director

Tel: +256 774287388 E-mail: kasulekenneth@ya







Both Nabulime Lilian and Nakayiza Moreen graduated on 27th February 2015 at Muteesa I Royal University. Moreen graduated with a Diploma in Secondary Education, while Lilian graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Mass Communication. Thanks to Grace Lutheran Church for supporting our students' education.





The Dean of St. John's Cathedral Kasaka as the Guest speaker. Her concert was

Intended to mobilize support to be able to

record Videos for some of her songs and probably taking her music career to another level. We thank everyone participated and contributed towards her cause. \$ 140 was collected! This was a good start for such a great performance with all those others featured on stage.

To those who have been following us, you know already that Rosemary was one of our students and a few years ago, we funded her Audio recording for one of her songs (Betty) with Dream Studios. This Audio CD recording took us about \$ 175 at that time and that was before this rampant inflation in Uganda. She has put up a budget of \$ 1100 to make a Video of her first song. We commend any one with potential to support this young woman with her music career.

CALL FOR MORE SPONSORSHIP:

We have gone through our scrutiny process through which we have come up with the most deserving students who indeed needs our support. 45 children qualified and I'm here calling for your help in their education. 30 children are secondary level students and 15 are primary promising students. Are you up to the challenge and can we count on you! Think about it and it's really fun to change one's life through education. We are here to help you enjoy the experience. USD 106 takes a secondary student for a term, and a year you need USD 318. For a primary student, requires USD 88 for a term and a year USD 264 (3 terms). The amount is for Boarding schools which includes food and everything.

Founding Director: Mr. Kenneth Kasule Email: <u>kasulekenneth@yahoo.ca</u> Tel: +256 774 287388

Secretary and News Editor: Mr. Moses Mawanda. E-mail: mawandammoses@gmail.com

Tel: +256 782086452

