



Program: **Bead for Life** [www.beadforlife.org](http://www.beadforlife.org)

**Mission:** *To create sustainable opportunities for women to lift themselves and their families out of extreme poverty by connecting people worldwide in a circle of exchange that enriches everyone.*

**Location of Project:** Uganda

**Total donation amount from Dining for Women:**  
\$70,024.50

**When Featured:** March 2009

**Project funded: DFW funds supported 377 Ugandan women for a full month's fair trade wages**, many of whom are HIV positive, widowed or internally displaced. The women turned colorful recycled paper into beautiful bead jewelry. The beads become income, food, medicine, school fees and hope. BeadforLife's program provided these Ugandan women with a means for steady income generation, putting money directly into their hands. Members launched their small businesses after receiving the money in their business fund.



Project Narrative provided by Heather Ditillo, **Bead for Life** program director:

*BeadforLife was truly blessed to have partnered with Dining for Women in 2009. The immense outpouring of support and generosity by your members was so appreciated and even more successful than we ever imagined.*

**We received \$70,024.50 from Dining For Women Members this year; \$12,219.50 of that in direct donations and the remainder in BeadParty sales.** Your funds and support have been so valuable to our work in Uganda.

**Revenue from your BeadSales were the equivalent of one month's fair trade wages paid to ALL 377 of our beaders enrolled at that time, including the Suubi, Mirembe, Mukisa and Sanyu groups.** Your donations and support have brought much "JOY" to our members. In fact, at the time we received your funds, we had just enrolled the "Sanyu" group which means "joy" in Luganda. **The Sanyu groups is made up of sixty-five women all of whom were living in extreme poverty and many who were the most**

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**Summary of DFW Fund Investments for BeadforLife:**

**BeadforLife Bearer Membership Program:**  
Total Budget for BeadforLife: \$1,683,718

Direct Payments to Beaders: \$840,000/year  
\$70,000/month

DFW BeadSales and Donations: \$70,024.50

**DFW supported 377 Beaders for a full month's fair trade wages**

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*marginalized in their communities because of their physical appearance, or inflictions including a few women who are acid survivors, albinos and were prostitutes. They just began their entrepreneurial training in December and we are looking forward to watching their progress as we shift our membership model from a 27-month program to an 18-month program with a greater and earlier focus on entrepreneurial training and development. You are truly contributing to the sustainable and continued success of our members!*

*A month's salary for the beaders allows them to pay school fees for their children with the average family size of 8 members per beader family; pay wages to other women in the community that the beaders have hired to help make beads, typically 2-3 women hired by each beader which allows those women to in turn support their families; invest in starting businesses; save for housing; purchase medicine; and have great pride in their ability to provide for themselves and their families.*



*This means that the 377 beaders enrolled at the time, hired 882 other women, meaning 2,940 in any given month are supported by bead-making!*

*Here are just a few of the women whose lives have been greatly impacted through their work with BeadforLife and your support:*

#### **BAIBIRYE APOPHIA**

**Before BeadforLife:** Apophia is one of 14 children born in a small village. As a young girl she was sent to an auntie who promised to send her to school but instead she became the maid. She was later sent to take care of her dying grandmother whom she loved very much and who treated her kindly. Following the death of her grandmother Apophia went to work at an uncle's shop and was harshly treated by his wife who only fed her one meal a day. Like many girls trying to escape such difficulties she met a man and had a child. Unfortunately he was killed in a taxi accident leaving her destitute. Apophia then started selling roasted maize by the side of the road, which is where BeadforLife found her.

**Now:** Apophia saved all of her hard earned money never withdrawing any out of the bank for living expenses. She bought a plot of land and intends to build a house. She has also started a small restaurant which serves traditional matoke and beans. Recently she has added a third business, making paper bags. She distributed one bag to each store in a trading center as a sample of her work. Within a week she had orders for 300 bags. She is now in our adult literacy class and is thrilled to write her name and read simple sentences. Her child is in school.

#### **JANET NAMUSOKA**

Janet is the eldest child of 8 born to a poor but determined family. She loved studying and was able to go as far as Senior Four thanks to the sponsorship of her uncle who paid her school fees.

*Once the money ran out she had to quit school. By this time Janet had developed her keen mind, could speak English well, and could do math, all skills that have helped her. She learned to do hair from a cousin and worked in a series of salons but no one would pay her for her labor. She was slowly starving when BeadforLife enrolled her to make beads.*

**Now:** *Janet met a man named Fred and they married. Together with her husband she started a butcher shop which is doing very well. They are currently expanding their business to include a chicken farm and are constructing the chicken hutches at this time. All of their children are in school.*

### **NAKAJERO OLIVIA**

*Olivia is an energetic 25-year old who was raised by her grandmother. She was only able to go to three years of primary school because there was no money to pay school fees. But the grandmother was proud that she could afford both soap and paraffin from her meager earnings growing coffee beans. As a young girl Olivia was sent to be a housemaid in an uncle's home. There she was physically abused and she ran away to live on the street. At 15 she joined up with a man and eventually had three children before she was 20. But the family was starving so Olivia took her children and moved into a small house cleaning a bar and selling avocados to make a living.*

**NOW:** *Olivia has built a house in Friendship Village where she lives with her children all of whom are in school. She has started a poultry business with 100 chickens. Olivia also works with her sister to sell red potatoes in a roadside stand. She is an avid student in our English literacy class. Olivia will never be poor again.*