



PROGRAM FACT SHEET

September 2014



Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project *Grandmother Training of Trainers program (TOT)*

Website: www.NyakaSchool.org

***"Grandmothers are the pillars in the society, holding the society together.
They are unsung heroes that people don't recognize."***

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Twesigye Jackson Kaguri, Founder, Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project



Of the 32 million people living in Uganda, there are an estimated 2.2 million AIDS orphans. Most of these children live in the care of their elderly grandmothers. Elderly women who, under better circumstances, might have received support from their adult children are instead raising their own grandchildren.

Dining for Women's \$45,000 grant to the Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project (NAOP) will empower 7,000 grandmothers with business and life skills to help them raise the 43,000 orphans in their care.

Life Challenges of the Women Served

Although the number of new HIV/AIDS infections has decreased, the number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS in Uganda is expected to continue rising as the estimated 1.5 million individuals currently living with the disease succumb to the disease.

Communities traditionally rely on a familial system of caring for orphaned children based on cultural traditions - orphaned children are cared for by an aunt or uncle. However, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has taken so many lives in one generation that many grandmothers are now caring for all of their children's children.

The grandmothers and children living in the rural districts of Rukungiri and Kanungu, where the Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project operates, have few sources of income beyond subsistence farming. Many struggle to feed themselves. Girls of school age are often occupied with subsistence farming and many are married at a young age to reduce the financial burden on the family.

"The grandmothers are impoverished, their days are numbered, and the decimation of families is so complete that there's often no one left in the generation coming up behind. We're all struggling to find a viable response, and there are, of course, some superb projects and initiatives in all countries, but we can't seem to take them to scale."

Stephen Lewis – UN Secretary-General's envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa

The Program

The main goal of the Training of Trainers Program is to help grandmothers in rural Uganda overcome poverty by training them in the following business and life skills:

- accounting for micro-finance loans
- better farming methods
- good hygiene
- sensitization to raising young children who are dealing with grief
- the importance of HIV/AIDS testing



There are 91 self-organized ‘Granny groups’ in the region – each group averages 75 women between the ages of 60 and 80 who are raising orphaned children. Each group will select three leaders to participate in the initial training. The selections are generally made based on literacy, mobility, and the ability to leave their homes unattended for the required time.

Nyaka will conduct five sessions to train 273 grandmothers - approximately 55 women will participate in each. The five-day, six-night sessions allow the participants to relax and learn together with the trainer, who meets them halfway from Kampala (a five-hour drive each way). The trainer is an elderly *mukaaka* (grandmother) herself, who has developed the curriculum based upon the demographics and needs of the grandmothers. She is a safe peer with whom the grandmothers relate.

The representatives from each Granny group will use their group’s regular monthly meetings to share their new knowledge and skills during the three months following their own training. They will become experts and community business leaders who will model leadership for the young girls they care for.

The Program Budget and How DFW’s Donations will be used

Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project - Grandmother Training of Trainers - expenses to train 273 women		DFW Grant Request
Lodging – 6 nights	\$20,475.00	\$20,475.00
Workshop supplies – markers, pens, tape, name tags, flip charts, printing costs	\$2,977.08	
Meals	\$16,266.25	\$16,266.25
Rental of training venue	\$1,333.33	
Radio announcements of workshops	\$1,166.66	
Transportation - fuel	\$666.67	
Transportation - driver	\$3,791.67	\$3,791.67
Training leader – per diem allowance	\$1,333.33	
Training leader - compensation	\$4,166.67	\$4,166.67
Miscellaneous – exchange rate flux, fuel cost spike	\$666.67	300.41
Total Cost	\$52,843.33	\$45,000.00

We also offer Sustained Program Funding (except the summer months) for programs DFW has featured in the past to a former DFW Featured Program. If net donations in any month exceed the Featured and Sustained Program grants, they fund a reserve to ensure we are able to meet future grant obligations in the event of a shortfall. (*Refer to the link on the website on how grants are disbursed*).

Voices of the Women



“For the last three years I lived without having a place to call my home. I had been residing with my two small grandchildren in a very small room at my neighbor’s home, after the collapse of my house. No relatives had been able to visit me. I tried unsuccessfully to sell a small parcel of my land so that I could build a new home. Nyaka came to my rescue. Thanks to my new home, I’ve been able to keep my land that will go to my grandchildren when I die and for this I am especially grateful. Now I can concentrate on the education of my grandchildren.”

- a grateful grandmother

“I wanted to join because I saw the lives of grandmothers transformed. I felt blind, with no one to guide me, until I joined my group.”

“Even if I die today, I will go to my grave a happy woman.” - Molly, an 85- year-old grandmother whose group voted to build her a new home, a pit latrine, and a kitchen.

Why We Love This Program

Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project targets a unique population that is not often considered and takes a different approach to viewing and dealing with the HIV/AIDS crisis. The train the trainer’s method is usually successful and well leveraged. The program puts the decision making in the hands of groups of women and they make the decisions regarding income and benefits.

About the Organization



Twesigye Jackson Kaguri grew up in the village of Nyakagezezi and graduated from Makerere University in Kampala. In the 1990’s he became a visiting scholar at Columbia University where he studied Human Rights Advocacy. He made regular trips home to his village, bringing school supplies to distribute. On a visit in 2001, he awoke one morning to discover many grandmothers surrounding his family home. They begged Kaguri to help their grandchildren, and he felt an obligation to give more than just pens, pencils, and paper. He and his wife used their savings to purchase land and build a primary school.

The project has grown into two schools, Nyaka Primary School and Kutamba Primary School. A secondary school is under construction. The project expanded to produce a radio program that brings a voice to orphans and grandmothers, a 17-acre farm that produces food for the schools, clean water systems, a community library at each school, a medical clinic, and a robust international volunteer program.

The ‘Granny groups’ began in 2007 in an effort to build stronger, more connected communities and to increase the sharing of resources and knowledge. Nyaka manages and supplies micro-funds to the groups so they can invest in small income-earning businesses, provides houses, smokeless kitchens, and clean pit-latrines to the most destitute (the groups select grandmothers who need new homes), as well as gardening seeds and tools. The first Training of Trainers workshop was held in 2007.

Nyaka's long-term investment and vision is to educate children to become the future leaders of Uganda. To meet immediate needs, they try to provide the oldest grandmothers with whatever assistance they need to survive. For the many able-bodied grandmothers who need access to credit and training toward self-sufficiency, Nyaka provides training and business assistance to break the cycle of poverty.

Kaguri was named a CNN Hero in 2012, has been named a Heifer International Hero, recognized in Time Magazine's 'Power of One' Series, and spoken to the UN about his work.

Where They Work



Uganda is located in Eastern Africa and is slightly smaller than the state of Oregon. The country borders Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, and Tanzania.

Demographics:

- The life expectancy in the country is approximately 55 years
- The Total Fertility Rate (number of children per woman) is one of the highest in the region at 5.97
- Uganda has the youngest population in the world. Nearly 70 percent of the population is under 24, and 48 percent is under 14. Only 2 percent is 65 and over.
- Literacy rates – 82.6 percent of males and 64.6 percent of females aged 15 and over can read and write
- Maternal mortality rate – 310 deaths/100,000 live births
- Infant mortality rate – 60 deaths/1,000 live births

For a more in-depth look at 'Grandmothers Rising to the Challenge', see [this month's Food for Thought](#).

Questions for Discussion

1. What experience have you had in passing along training and knowledge you've received that helps you relate to the grandmothers who will undergo training through Nyaka?
2. What have you heard about the challenges related to anti-retroviral drug treatment in Africa?
3. What are some of the implications of Uganda having the youngest population in the world?

Additional Resources

On the DFW Program webpage for Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project you will also find links to:

- Food for Thought – a look at grandmothers rising to the challenge
- Program Video – link and downloadable file
- Recipes, Customs, and Cuisine
- Recommendations for Fair Trade, Books, Films and Music

Source Materials

- Documentation and images provided by the Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project to Dining for Women
- [World Fact Book](#) , [CNN Heroes](#)