

Rubanda Solidarity



2012 Water Harvesting

Building a
Bridge to the
Future for all.



2012 School Assembly

Changing the
future, one
life at a time.



2012 African Drum of Joy by Maxensia

Rubanda Solidarity Nursery and Primary School



Our Leaders
of Tomorrow



To find out more about our mission or
make a donation please contact us:

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2011 - Students with their new mosquito nets,
a gift from our friends in Grants Pass, OR, USA.

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United for success
founded in 2004

Our History

In 2002, the Rubanda community suffered greatly from the effects of the HIV/AIDS virus, with children being the most vulnerable. Many children became orphans or were forced into child parenting because their parents were too weak to work. After losing both parents to the virus, three fortunate children were adopted by a generous mother with a large family of her own. Not knowing exactly how she was going to provide for everyone, their new mother, who now had a family of 12, shared her amazing faith when she said, "God, who has made it possible for us to be where we are, will also make it possible for them (the 3 new additions to her family)."



2002 - Mrs. Agnes with her chickens

A year later her son, Dominic, encouraged her to initiate a small scale chicken project to generate some income in order to support her sizable family. After some time, Dominic's friend donated just enough money to buy five chickens, construct their shelter and feed them for a month. In less than a year, the economic face of this family changed dramatically. Many women wanted to become part of this project and the group of women grew from 14 to 35 families.



2004 - The 90 children enrolled for the pilot year

Things did not end with the five chickens. At one of their regular meetings the women decided to focus on creating a program that would improve the current harsh conditions endured by the children of their community. The idea for a private nursery and primary school was born and, with the help of Fr. Dominic Tumusiime, AJ, and Sr. Stellamaris Kyasiimire, OLG, in 2004, a pilot school with 90 children was started. Unique in its creation, this new school



Sr. Stellamaris serves a necessary school meal to children

Our Location

Rubanda is a very impoverished region of remote Uganda near both the Rwanda and Congo borders. It is a rural agrarian area hit by HIV/AIDS resulting in the disruption of families and the basic social fabric.



The town of Rubanda is a rural village of approximately 5,000 located in the district of Kabale. The area is primarily agricultural, but despite family owned subsistence farms located on the terraced green hillsides, poverty and hunger are rampant. Tourists do visit the nearby



Bwindi Impenetrable National Park to see gorillas as well as scenic Lake Bunyonyi, but for the most part the area is

impoverished and isolated.



Lake Bunyonyi

Thank You

With grateful hearts we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has helped Rubanda Solidarity. From the smallest prayer to the biggest monetary donation. From physically taking care of our children, to sponsoring them so they are able to attend. We give thanks to: all of our donors, both long-standing and prospective, our benefactors, our administrative staff, our Board of Directors, and a team of community volunteers including parents, teachers and others support staff, PTA (Parent Teacher Association), SMC (School Management Committee) and neighbors.



School Management Committee



New sponsorships make it possible for more needy children to attend our school.

“giving thanks
always and for
everything”
- Eph. 5:20



Yamba Abaana USA Board Member, Steve (center), and his wife, Faith (not pictured), sponsor Arthur on the left, with his father, Fiizi, and Rominata on the right, with her father, Silas.



Generous community members who selflessly sustain the life of children through Yamba Abaana sponsorship.

would not only provide the essential schooling instruction, but also the basic provision of breakfast. Both children and parents were excited about this added benefit. At a year end evaluation parents commented that they had no problem waking their children to bring them to school. In fact, the children were waking up early and pulling their parents out of bed just to make sure they got to school before the breakfast meal was over.



2005 - School drop-out youth working on foundation bricks

In 2005, the miracle of a new private school was officially launched under the name, "**Rubanda Solidarity**", because it is a fruit of solidarity. Initially, because of heavy financial constraints and needs, the school administration decided to add a class each year until the whole primary circle was complete. The completion of this circle was seen in 2012 when 21 candidates sat for the national UPLE (Uganda Primary Leaving Examination) for the first time.

That same year, 2005, land was purchased by donations from Italian friends and community contributions for the future building of dormitories and classrooms.

School drop-out youth were hired to create the blocks for the building foundations. This empowered them to generate their own income and better their lives. As the years have passed, progress on the school campus buildings has flourished.



2010 - New Dormitory Complete

After five years of hard work, students now enjoy a sleeping facility complete with bunk beds and mosquito nets.

Today, Rubanda Solidarity School serves 300 children from within and outside the community. With this school, things have become different for the children of Rubanda and the community, although we still have many needs. Some students come every day and join the boarders in the "school meal program" for breakfast and lunch. Since the school started, no child has dropped out because of food or hunger.

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2006 - Humble origins of the school



2011 - Children on the way to summer break

Our Mission

Since 2002, the Rubanda Solidarity Association, a faith-based, non-profit, rural Community Based Organization (CBO) in southwestern Uganda, has been providing quality education, food, spiritual guidance and boarding to children in a safe environment and improving the living standards of the community -- building a bridge to the future for all.

This ministry is based on Gospel values with a focus on child support and education through the Rubanda Solidarity Nursery and Primary school, serving over 300 children and their families. This school provides the necessary tools for students to grow and prosper in a wonderful, safe environment, giving them the opportunity to better themselves as well as their community.



2011 Children learn life skills



2011 - African dance even in church



Dec. 2011 Nursery Students graduate to Primary One



2006 - Children playing at school



2011 - Primary Study Trip to Bwindi National Park

Completed Projects of 2012

The year 2012 has been full of blessings and accomplishments. The children of Rubanda have been the primary beneficiaries of the completed projects of the past year. The administration has enjoyed building community confidence and support which is witnessed by the shifting mindset of not only our students and their families, but the entire community as well. It is a shift from the traditional "government school" to "our school". Some of the noteworthy projects of the past year include:

* The school buildings have seen quite a few changes since we started in 2005. This year the construction of separate bathrooms and toilets for boys and girls improved sanitation for everyone.



2012 Girls washing up in the new bathrooms

* Our community is prone to mosquitos, which brings malaria. We have been able to provide 309 mosquito nets, shielding each child. As a result, malaria has declined from 28% in 2011 to 3% in 2012.



2012 new land purchased for separate nursery school

* With the purchase of a half acre piece of land, a separate nursery school can be built which will make a big difference in the lives of the children.

* Lack of any source of light at night has been another major problem in our school. For over seven years our children

and their matrons have been risking a 100 meter walk to the restrooms at night, feeling their way in the dark with their hands. The little solar energy that has been acquired for the school is of great relief to all of us.

* Security and safety increased with a permanent gate and the beginning construction of a campus wide fence.



2012 New Gate complete with school flag colors

Candidates 2013

As we congratulate and say good bye to our 2012 graduates, it is with great anticipation and excitement that we welcome our next graduating class. Here is our primary six class who will be sitting for exams in the Fall of 2013.



2013 Candidates

Primary Candidates

Please, join the parents and the administration of Rubanda Solidarity Nursery/Primary School as we congratulate the 28 children who successfully made it to grade/class one this year. We are very proud of them and are grateful for their achievement as it affirms and encourages our service to them.



Sr. Stellamaris and Teacher Angela with graduates after graduation on December 2, 2012.

Our school objective is to provide equal education opportunities for boys and girls. For the first time we have the same number of boys and girls in the same class—14 of each!!

Congratulations to all our graduates!

Yamba Abaana

"Yamba Abaana" Ministry comes from the Kiga native language in western Uganda and literally means, "Help Children" Ministry. The native language was chosen over an English translation in an effort to involve and recognize the local community which plays a major role in sponsoring and taking care of many orphans, children with disabilities and less fortunate children.



In 2004 Agnes Kyarakabize became our very first sponsor and was instrumental in starting the school.

"Yamba Abaana" Ministry is a new opportunity for everyone, both inside and outside the Rubanda community, to sponsor a child in need. Our "Yamba Abaana" Ministry was initially launched in 2004 by a family adopting and sponsoring three children. Now it is



2012 Ugandan "Yamba Abaana" Ministry management team

booming with over 50 children being sponsored from both local and foreign friends. While the number of sponsored children has grown exponentially, we still have over 200 children waiting to be sponsored.

The community members who make up the "Yamba Abaana" Ministry management team identify the neediest children as well as

educate the community on sponsorships, guidelines, funds, community contributions, and the responsibilities and expectations of sponsors, both local and foreign, and children receiving benefits.



2012 American "Yamba Abaana" Ministry management team

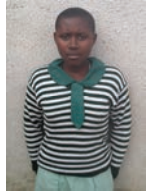
Children are the future of any family, community and society and Rubanda is no exception. They need more attention and care, and improved means of living. And most desperately they need quality education. But how will all this happen in a jungle of poverty, illiteracy and ignorance? Through "Yamba Abaana" Ministry and your sponsorships.

2012 Candidates

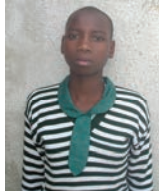
The following 21 students, most of whom have been with our school since its inception in 2005, are the first graduating class of Rubanda Solidarity School. They sat for the Uganda Primary Leaving Exams (UPE) November 4-6, 2012. We are excited to report that 19 of them passed with a Grade 1 (equivalent to a grade of 85—95% in the USA) and 2 passed with a Grade 2 (equivalent to a grade of 75—85% in the USA). Such great success is a fruit of our labor of solidarity. Congratulations to them and best wishes on the next chapter in their book of higher education.



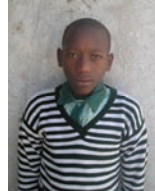
Ainembabazi
Doreen
Grade 1 on UPLE



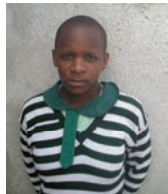
Ainembabazi
Joan
Grade 2 on UPLE



Amanyabyoona
Viorah
Grade 1 on UPLE



Asimwe
Anaclet
Grade 1 on UPLE



Atuheire
Joan
Grade 1 on UPLE



Atusasire
Ronald
Grade 1 on UPLE



Atuyambe
Papius
Grade 1 on UPLE



Candidates and teachers before sitting for their exams
November 4, 2012



1st candidates and their teachers take a farewell photo
November 7, 2012



Bikirize
Sostine
Grade 1 on UPLE



Byomugabe
Amos
Grade 1 on UPLE



Ensiteriyeyitu
Balikudembe
Grade 1 on UPLE



Kemigisha
Confidence
Grade 1 on UPLE



Kemigisha
Eudence
Grade 1 on UPLE



Nasasira
Berenaldo
Grade 1 on UPLE



Ndyamuhaki
Susan
Grade 1 on UPLE



Ninsiima
Donatira
Grade 1 on UPLE



Ninsiima
Odiira
Grade 1 on UPLE



Owaruhanga
Denis
Grade 1 on UPLE



Tumuhereze
Marius
Grade 1 on UPLE



Tumuhimbiise
Maxensia
Grade 2 on UPLE



Tweshengyereze
Illuminate
Grade 1 on UPLE



Tweshengyereze
Leona
Grade 1 on UPLE