



Newsletter March, 2007

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Letter from KACCAD Team

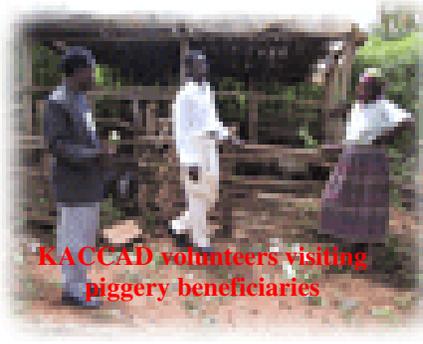
Dear KACCAD Volunteers, Friends, Well-Wishers and stakeholders

Since 1994, we have moved along way as Kyosiga Community Christian Association for Development (KACCAD). We are happy to share our successes as an organization with you, our beloved volunteers, stakeholders and well-wishers. At the same time, we recognize that our work is far from being done. We look forward to your continued support as we meet the goals of our mission and the needs of our communities.

This is our first newsletter. Through this newsletter, we are happy to finally recognize the important work of volunteers. For us at KACCAD, it is time to look back at how volunteers have impacted the lives of vulnerable community members here in Wakiso District and surrounding communities of Uganda. Volunteers at KACCAD have done tremendous work and continue to inspires life transformation of marginalized communities through empowering orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), women, people from child-headed households, women headed households, people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, and those with disabilities.



Former British high commissioner
Michael Cook touring KACCAD heifer
project

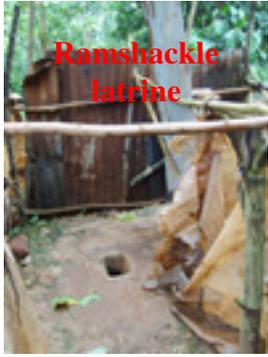


KACCAD volunteers visiting
piggery beneficiaries



KACCAD
VOLUNTEER
SPONSORED OFFICE

Volunteers have setup school libraries, mobilized resources and funds, done website design, helped carry out our baseline survey and provided support for administration costs. These efforts have given many Ugandans opportunities to be helped and hopeful. Volunteer support has also allowed many OVCs opportunities to go to school for the first time or to continue their education. To date, we are proud to recognize the hard work of the 48 OVCs receiving school sponsorship through KACCAD partnerships.



Ramshackle latrine



HIV/AIDS Widow & Orphan living in Ssumbwe



Water source in Ssumbwe

At the same time that we appreciate the tremendous support of volunteers, we recognize that our work is far from completion. In our community, people still drink unsafe water, live in ramshackle houses and use latrine that threaten to collapse on them. Many families earn below one dollar a day, adults are predominantly illiterate, and community members yearn for health/HIV/AIDS support.

We see a disturbing trend in our communities. As close as we are to our capitol city, Kampala, Wakiso district and surrounding areas is often overlooked for services and support. Larger NGOs generally seek to serve people within Kampala or those in districts far from the city. It is expected that if someone living near Kampala wants services they will come to Kampala to get them. For the poorest families the cost of transport alone is prohibitive let alone the loss of one day of labor.

Many wealthy families move into the areas around Kampala, buying out the poorest families and increasing the disparity of wealth. When poor families sell their land, they let go of their most valuable asset, their means of producing food. The initial benefit of land sale is often too appealing when families are struggling to meet so many costs: school fees, medical costs, continues support to HIV/AIDS patients and other living costs.

Thus, families often fail too look at the long term costs or see their present need as being of greater importance. In this way, our community is experiencing a greater disparity in wealth and an increase in the severity of poverty. Without adequate governmental and donors support, KACCAD and other community Based Organizations (CBOs) struggle to meet the needs of most desperate community members. As spoken so eloquently in Luke 21:1-4 "...[S]he out of there poverty put in all the livelihood that she had." Though KACCAD is of limited means, we continue to be committed to service of the most vulnerable.

In order for KACCAD to successfully meet community needs, we need your continued support. This newsletter will detail some of the ways you can help KACCAD be of service to Wakiso District and surrounding community members. With all the work in front of us, we continue to appreciate what we have been able to accomplish. We strive to live up to our mission even with barriers of funding and lack of resources. Please take this moment to pat yourselves on the back. Ever with all our challenges, we are doing a great job of responding the needs of the vulnerable. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

The KACCAD Team

This is the first KACCAD quarterly newsletter! We hope the newsletter can help us maintain healthy working relationships with you all that will enable us move forward together. We are happy to be sharing the successes and challenges we are facing as an organization in serving and empowering vulnerable community members of Wakiso District and surrounding areas. This newsletter will focus on the work accomplished from December 2006 to the beginning of March, new partnerships, aims for the New Year and where we can use your support. Please let us know if you need more information about any of the projects listed or if you have ideas on how to improve our work. We are very thankful for your ongoing collaboration.



Our focus during 2007 is on health, wellbeing and organization sustainability. In the area of health we are providing HIV/AIDS and health sensitization and are providing HIV counseling and testing through a new partnership with AIDS Information Center. We are also looking into more long term plans for supporting water and sanitation projects in Wakiso Sub-County and surrounding areas. At the same time, we are hatching plans to revitalize the piggery project and start a complementary income generation project, which we will discuss in greater detail in this newsletter.

**OVCs who received food at
January 18th event at their home in
Ssumbwe**

In the area of education we have began working with Kikaaya College in Bulenga, women's groups and a youth groups all based in Wakiso District. Our Peace Corps HIV/AIDS educator, Amanda Milholland has also provide HIV/AIDS training for KACCAD staff. In February alone we provide HIV/AIDS education to over 200 people! We look forward to strengthening and expanding the health education program but are limited by lack of resources and funding. What this means for us is that we do not have transport, to conduct outreach, purchases educational supplies or provide facilitation to presentation attendance (it is customary in Uganda to provide transportation funds and some snacks to people attending any workshop). Even with out these resources, we continue to work.

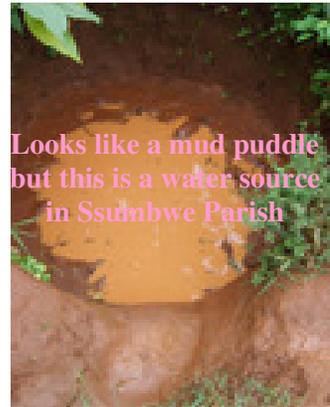
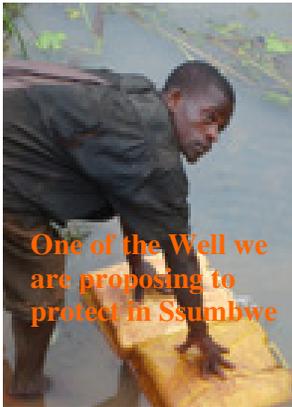
Partnerships like that newly founded with AIDS Information Center will help us reach our goals of offering HIV/AIDS counseling and testing to people in and beyond Wakiso District. AIDS Information Center has committed to providing HIV counseling and testing to groups that we organize in the district. We do the mobilization and sensitization, they do the counseling and testing. In addition to partnership support we are looking to develop sponsorship relationships with national and international groups and individuals. Later in this newsletter we will discuss an opportunity for you be get involved as a friend to KACCAD or an international board member.

When it comes to child education, we are happy for the continued support of Dixon Church of Christ. Dixon Church provides school fees for 48 OVCs. We look forward to securing still other funding to provide school sponsorship to a larger number of OVCs. School sponsorship of OVCs is an ongoing project, one which we continue to need help with. If you know any one who is interested in sponsoring a child/children please let them know about the project and be sure to refer them to us if they have any questions you cannot answer.

Water and sanitation has become another priority of KACCAD. Conducting the baseline survey in 2006 helped KACCAD realize the importance of access to a clean water supply, water sanitation education and construction of latrines for people living in Wakiso District and surrounding areas. In the district it is estimated that almost 50% of the population does not have access to safe drinking water (2002 census). Some wells that are main water sources for communities could better be described as stagnant pools or small ponds. Contaminants such as cholera, schistosomiasis, amebic dysentery, other water borne diseases and waste products pollute many of these wells as result of lack of protection. Due to the lack of prohibitive barriers, people also share these undeveloped wells with animals. Poor latrines conditions and lack of latrines leads to still further human contamination. These realities make it clear that well development, as well as water and sanitation education and building of latrines, is of fundamental importance in our district and surrounding areas. KACCAD is currently exploring partnership with the district to support well construction and other health projects.

We are also planning with the Milholland family (Amanda's parents) and Port Townsend, Washington Community members to construct one well in Ssumbwe Parish of Wakiso. This will be part of our ongoing work to support water and sanitation in in Wakiso Sub-County. Accompanying this project, we will conduct community education on proper hygiene and boiling water. We look forward to identifying grants that can enable us to build still other wells and latrines. Doug Milholland is the focal person for fundraising for the Ssumbwe water project. He can be reached via email at douglasmilholland@waypt.com or by phone from the US at 360-385-6525. Please contact us if you have questions or ideas for the ongoing success of this project. KACCAD is working with parish and district leaders for financial and construction planning. For more details about this project, to help us identify funding for future water and sanitation projects please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are interested in helping to fund construction of the Ssumbwe well contact Doug Milholland.

Photos of water sources in Ssumbwe:



When it comes to developing an income generating activity for KACCAD, we are looking at past lessons and future possibilities. The piggery project is no longer a sustainable income generating activity due to the fact that the pig stock has dwindled, sties need to be refurbished and costs of running the farm are not presently being met by the sale of pigs. The major problems of this project are that KACCAD was not given enough start-up capital for its success at the beginning of the project and also committed to giving away too large of a number of piglets in too short of a period of time for the project to build up a sustainable stock. Piglets were given to impoverished families without or with limited income generating activities as way of raising the family income. Some families did quite well with the project but the poorest families, like KACCAD, have struggled to provide food and medicine to their animals.

KACCAD has recognized the major problems with this project and is now working on plans to build it to sustainability. We are also doing preliminary research on the costs and availability of funding to purchase a grain mill to add to the project. A grain mill would be an additional means of income generation and food production for our community and for piggery, poultry, and livestock farming. The waste from milling would go to feeding the pigs and be used to provide start up food to families benefiting from KACCAD's rotating piggery scheme. We are currently doing research to see what costs are involved in this combined project, how it would work, what equipment would be best and available. Once we have done the background research we will be looking into grant funding for this project.

So that's the rundown on our current work. We continue to focus on strengthening what we are already doing and to look for ways to strengthen our organization through partnership. We very much hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter and look forward to hearing from you!

KACCAD Mission and Vision

One of the major projects we have undergone since December has been the revision of agency writing: mission, vision, objectives, organization history, base line survey (thank you Claire for all your hard work!!!) and some proposal writing. Derrick and Amanda attended a training by Peace Corps at the end of May the focus of which was the development of some of these documents. You will notice as you look over past copies of the base line survey and other KACCAD writings that we are slowly developing and clarifying our focus. We are interested in your feedback on the following organization writings. We would like to settle on a final finely tuned mission and vision before we move into making an organization brochure (one of our goals for second quarter). The current KACCAD mission, vision, goals and objectives follow:

Vision:

Vulnerable communities in Wakiso District and surrounding areas are empowered and self-sufficient with their health, education and income generation needs met.

Mission:

To raise the standard of living of underprivileged people in Wakiso District and surrounding areas through provision of HIV/AIDS, health and education support, vocational skills development and start up resources for income generation.

Goals:

- By 2012, women, youth and OVCs in Wakiso Sub-County and surrounding communities will have increased access to quality HIV/AIDS counseling and testing and HIV/AIDS related health education and support services.
- By 2012, at least 20 presently out of school OVCs in Wakiso Sub-County and surrounding communities will receive school sponsorship and education support.
- By 2012, low income earners, HIV/AIDS infected and affected families, teen mothers and people with disabilities living in Wakiso Sub County will have increased access to skills development opportunities and income generation support.

Our Objectives:

- By 2012, KACCAD will provide HIV/AIDS sensitization to at least 1,500 in-school youth in Wakiso Sub-County and surrounding communities. As a result, involved youth will be better able to avoid HIV infection reducing the prevalence of HIV in our youth population.
- By 2012, at least 1,000 women, out-of-school youth and people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS will receive HIV/AIDS prevention and related health sensitization. As result, these vulnerable communities will be better able to avoid HIV infection reducing the prevalence of HIV in our communities.
- By 2012, KACCAD, in collaboration with partner agencies, will facilitate access to HIV counseling and testing for at least 2,500 women, youth, people with disabilities and OVCs in Wakiso Sub-County and surrounding areas. As a result, these people will have increased knowledge of their HIV status and methods of HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention.
- By 2012, 25 low income youth in Wakiso Sub-County will be provided with tailoring training and a sewing machine as part of KACCAD's existing revolving scheme. As a result, at least 5 youth will start profitable tailoring business.
- By 2012, 30 out-of-school youth will receive training in carpentry from the 25 already trained youth who have received tools and support for work space from KACCAD. As a result, at least 5 new youth will be successfully involved in carpentry for IGA.
- By 2012, KACCAD, in collaboration with individuals and partner agencies, will facilitate access to school sponsorships and education support for at least 20 OVCs in additional to the 48 OVCs already provided for by KACCAD Donors. As a result, 20 more vulnerable youth will go back to school or will have the opportunity to attend school for the first time increasing their potential to acquire profitable employment and life skills.
- By 2012, KACCAD will provide a piglet to 60 low income households in addition to the 58 that have already received piglets as part of KACCAD's existing rotating scheme. Families will also be provided with financial management training and piggery farming and management skills. As a result, at least 15 families will be enabled to maintain pig raising as a profitable income generating activity.

Looking for Board Members and Supporters!

KACCAD is currently looking for help strengthening and revitalizing its review board. We are also looking for supporters who can commit to give a gift to KACCAD on a quarterly, by-annually or annual basis. Both board members and other supporters can help advise us and give us the resources to reach sustainability as an organization and similarly empower our stakeholders to become sustainable and live healthfully.

In board members we are looking for resourceful and energetic people who can reviewing grants; helping us recruit new volunteers, board members and friends; access health support and other needed resources and advise us in our organization development. We will be appealing both nationally and internationally for board members. On our end, we commit to sending a quarterly report of organization events, on-going projects and our budget to board members. These documents will be up for your review and suggestions.

In addition to board support, we are looking for people who can help us fulfill our goals by committing to giving KACCAD a regular donation. Your donation of \$10-\$100 on a quarterly, by-annual or annual basis can help KACCAD have the means to

carry out community sensitization, facilitate income generation development for poorest families, skills development and other projects and to help us meet ongoing administrative costs. We also invite you to pledge money to support any specific project such as: school sponsorship of an OVC, educational supplies for community sensitization or for an OVC, purchase of animal, feed or other projects. We even invite you to give to KACCAD as a gift for a friend. Upon receiving your donation, we will send you a certificate recognizing your gift to KACCAD in the name of your friend.

Please share this invitation to give or get involved as a board member with your friends and family. If you need more information about how to get involved or what your involvement would entail, we invite you to contact us. Thank you so much for your encouragement, volunteer and other support. It is invaluable and very much appreciated by all of us at KACCAD as well as the communities we serve!!!!

Needed Resources

Some of our volunteers have been asking us about how they can help, what resources we are needing for our HIV/AIDS program and other programs. In addition to looking for board members and other friends and supporters we are in need of a wide variety of resources and goods to successfully carry out our programs. We have listed the things we need for the HIV/AIDS and health education program as well as some of our administrative costs and costs for student sponsorship. We invite you to help us meet these needs by making a donation or otherwise gifting the listed items. **To make a donation to KACCAD please contact us at the mailing address, email address or phone number listed at the top of the news letter.**

HIV/AIDS Education Program Needs

- Flip chart stand
- Markers (\$4)
- Permanent markers (\$6)
- White grain sacks to make durable, long lasting educational posters (\$1 each)
- Pamphlets about HIV/AIDS and other STD/STIs (Any volunteer that is interested in making some brochures featuring these topics is very much encourages to contact Amanda for assistance.)
- Female condoms
- Funds for transportation and printing costs

Other Organization Projects and Costs

- Office Rent and electricity per month \$58.11
- Piggery attendant per month \$40.22
- Water for pig farm per month \$45.97
- Office stationary per month \$45.97
- Flip chart paper per month \$4
- Internet charges per month \$28
- Outreach transportation charges per month \$80

School Sponsorship

- \$144 per term per student (3 terms a year)
- School supplies per student per term \$30 (books, pens, pencils, stationary...)

Event Review



KACCAD kicked off the New Year with an event for OVCs on January 18th. Thanks to the donation of Center for Spiritual Awakening (CSA), KACCAD successfully provided food and soap to 160 Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVCs). The event at which these items were given was hosted at Bbira Playground in Bulenga, Wakiso District. In honor of the nature of CSA's donation of funding from one community to another the event was entitled "Cross Community Partnership for a Happy New Year." The event exceeded KACCAD's expectations with more families fed and

an audience of 300 plus people. The report that follows details the successes and challenges of the event.



**GUEST OF HONOUR
ELZADIA
WASHINGTON DEPUTY
DIRECTOR USAID -
UGANDA and LC
CHAIRMAN OF
SSUMBWE PARISH
SHAKE HANDS**

The OVCs and care providers who attended this event represent a small piece of the vast community of people in Wakiso District that are deeply in need of support services in health/HIV/AIDS, education/skills development, economic generation, food security, potable water and sanitation. This event focused on HIV/AIDS orphans.

In Wakiso District, there are over 80,000 children living without at least one parent and over 20,000 who have lost both (2002 census). In other words, roughly 16% of all children in the district have lost at least one parent and 4% have lost both. The category 'OVC' also includes vulnerable children. KACCAD understands vulnerability in this context to mean any child who does not have equal access to the resources necessary for his/her development and capacity to reach their potential. This could include, for example, children who cannot afford to go to school, access health services, children who are the head of their households, and those who care for sick relatives. It is unclear what percentage of these children have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS. With recorded HIV/AIDS infection rates between 7% and 10% nationwide it can be assumed that the percentage is high.

It should be noted that KACCAD's observations through its conduction of a base line survey in November 2006 suggest that many people living with HIV/AIDS in Wakiso District have not received HIV/AIDS testing and counseling let alone medical care through they have clear signs of HIV/AIDS infection. This reality indicates that many HIV/AIDS infections go unrecorded. Poorest community members often live and die with HIV/AIDS without ever receiving medical care. Furthermore, HIV/AIDS is complicated by so many other health and wellbeing issues faced by Wakiso residents making cause of death often ambiguous. Common health issues that complicate HIV/AIDS infection include but are not limited to: malaria, tuberculosis, typhoid fever, whooping cough, cholera, intestinal parasites and other water borne infections caused by contaminated water supplies and malnutrition.

Extended families are commonplace in Wakiso. Often grandparents, aunts, uncles and older siblings look after many children due to the death of their parents (*WHO, 2006*). As indicated by the base line survey, these families struggle to meet the needs of as many as 25 orphans sometimes without any source of income.

The people who attended the event were invited by KACCAD through their Local Council members (district and parish representatives). The families who were invited were chosen based on the greatest need. These families are all caring for OVC, most of whom has lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS.

What Was Provided

We were able to provide 1kg of posh (corn flower which is a main food in Uganda), 1kg of beans, 1kg of sugar and a bar of soap to members of all the families in attendance exceeding our hope to provide these items to 100 OVCs. One OVC was chosen from each household to receive the donation with an understanding that the household would be sharing in the gift. These items allowed families to eat, wash cloths, clean their homes and selves for a few days. The mosquito nets provided with support from the local government of Wakiso will help sustain the health of the family after they have enjoyed the food.



**Women packing
food for OVCs**



**Amanda giving food to
an OVC at the event**



Challenges

As you know, meeting community needs is an unending process. We were happy to have the opportunity to give food to so many people but realize that this gift will only temporarily meet the needs of these community members. KACCAD looks forward to developing new and strengthening current sustainable projects to empower and lift up these vulnerable community members in a sustainable way.

An ongoing challenge faced by KACCAD and other community groups and individuals is the self-interest of local and national government leaders. How this affected the event was that many local leaders who were invited to attend, had confirmed their attendance and even committed to speak at the event failed to show. Even the Wakiso District Local Chairman V, the highest district leader who had committed to bringing mosquito nets did not attend. Thus the nets were not provided on the day of the event. KACCAD did follow up with this issue however and the district has recommitted to provide nets to the same families who attended. KACCAD looks forward to distributing these nets as soon as they are received. We were happy to host the Deputy Director of USAID as our special guest and over all the lack of local leader at the event did not put a damper on its success.

One thing that was made clear by the absence of community leaders at the event was that The irresponsibility of government leaders has made the role of small community based NGOs even more important requiring that groups such as KACCAD take up the slack when local government leaders fail to meet community needs. This irresponsibility is linked to many epidemic problems in Uganda one of the primary problems being poverty. When even local government leaders are struggling to meet their basic needs, self-interest can overweigh commitment to community service. Being that KACCAD's volunteer staff are part of the same community that we serve, they are deeply committed to meeting vulnerable community members needs as best they can so as to raise up the hole of our population.

KACCAD sincerely appreciates the support given by CSA, our volunteers and stakeholders and looks forward to more opportunities to combine forces to serve people in Wakiso District and surrounding areas. Your support has a fantastic impact on our community. Thank you, and, as our motto reminds us, "together as one" we will empower and enrich lives of the most vulnerable in Wakiso District and surrounding area! Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or want to help support any specific projects.

All of us from KACCAD extend our thanks to our volunteers and friends: Nathan Kurz (Germany) and parents, Joel Kurz (USA), Claire Mccarroll (UK), Amanda Milholland (USA), Annette Westoo (Swiden), Matt (USA), Myrle and Dawn (USA), Alan Bradley (Ireland), Stephen (Uganda), Samuel Musisi (Uganda), Winnie(Uganda), Mwasko(USA), Monica Kurz(Germany), Lien (USA), the Milholland family (USA), Abby Leach and the Center for Spiritual Awakening (USA) for your continued support. Thank you! We look forward to working with you more in the next quarter and throughout the year. As we go into the second quarter of the year, let us pursue our mission and vision with renewed zeal so that we continue to improve lives in our community. Stay well and God bless.

Thank you again to all volunteers!