**

**Global African Village Board Meeting**

**September 8, 2012**

**Cyber Café, 3028 Danforth Street, Toronto, Ontario**

In attendance: Sebastian Wanzama-Piro, Maura Fioroni, and Sharon Green

Our projects in Uganda

* Sebastian noted that Global African Village has made a significant impact on the Bagishu people in many ways. He provided updates on these projects:
  + Yetana Fish Pond: The first tilapia harvest was December 2011; now additional fish are being raised. The fish pond is on church land, and Patrick Wangusi chairs the committee overseeing the pond. Most of the fish is for local consumption; some villagers are also selling fish to augment their income.
  + The donation from Mary Willcox of Idaho donation has enabled Esta Nabulwala to enter an Early Childhood Education Program in Mbale, Uganda. Esta hopes to complete her course in March 2013.
  + Brianna Cole’s donation enabled Robinah to complete Grade 12. Robinah is now attending nursing school.
  + Beekeeping project: We purchased wood and materials and paid a carpenter to build five beehives. It takes about nine months to harvest the honey. The five young men working on this project will sell the honey and raising more bees to increase production.
  + Update on the recipients of the 2010 “Buusale Kamani” small-business development grant from SIFE at Canisius College:
    - Levi Kutosi was able to build a two-room house from metal sheets for his family. He was also able to buy a goat and chickens.
    - Margaret Zeboura used her grant to expand her in-home childcare. She did so well that the Ugandan government got involved. They helped build a semi-permanent structure with three classrooms. Margaret now teaches about 40—50 kids, ages 6 – 10. There was no road to their school but the local authorities are considering putting in a road.
    - Abdul Chubeyi, who makes tools, no longer works only in the mountains. He is now able to sell his tools on the Uganda-Kenya border, which has expanded his business. This additional income enabled him to pay high school fees for his daughter and improve his simple house. He would like to get a generator to help him work more efficiently.
    - Deborah Kutosi bought a sewing machine instead of food stuffs and is earning some income by sewing.
    - Billah Nandutu has been sick. So far, she has been unable to be successful with her grant.
* Sebastian hopes to leave for his annual trip to Uganda in January 2013. So far this year, we have raised $3,898.19; by then, we hope to have raised at least $4,200, which he will take to fund our projects. He will return with progress reports on:
  + - Esta Nabulwala, who is being trained in Early Childhood Education
    - the young men who started the beekeeping project
    - the five recipients of the 2010 small-business grants from Canisius
    - the Yetana Fish Pond

Fundraising and publicity, and outreach

* Sharon reported on the success of the fundraisers she has run so far this year:
  + Bon-Ton Shop for a Cause
  + Global African Village night at Friendly’s in Amherst, NY
  + candy bar sale
* Sharon also reported that the Ugandan crafts that Sebastian brought from Uganda last year sold well in Global Villages, a new Buffalo gift shop opened in 2012 by Rwandan Louise Sano. So far, we netted $157 in sales. Louise would like to sell more of these crafts next year.
* Sharon reported on recent talks she gave at the Tampa, FLA, West Latin Rotary Club; the Niagara, NY, Rotary Club; and the Lackawanna/Blasdell, NY, Rotary Club.
* Sharon brought four copies of the latest anthology of stories written by children at Errick Road Elementary School in Wheatfield, NY, to the children at Joe’s Playhouse. Maura will mail them to Uganda this week.
* Maura donated three bags of unique hard candy; Sharon will try to sell them when she sells the candy bars.

Future Plans

* In March 2012, Dr. Patricia Hutton, SIFE advisor at Canisius College, promised us $350 to inaugurate the S.H.E and S.A.W. programs to provide youth employment. However, despite a recent reminder email from Sharon she has not yet sent the money. Sharon will follow up.
* We discussed the continued landslides, which are caused by deforestation. Out of necessity, local residents cut down trees for fuel; however, depleting trees endangers their communities. Although the government would like to re-settle people in less landslide-prone areas, most Bagishu do not want to move. The kids at Joe’s Playhouse have already started planting some eucalyptus trees. Maura proposed formalizing a tree-planting project, and she will contribute funds to inaugurate this project. We will name it the “Tre-Plac” Tree Planting Club.

We will determine the date and time for the next Board meeting after Sebastian returns from Uganda.

*Respectfully submitted by Sharon Green*

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