

Uganda Eco Tours Voluntourism Partner / Affiliate Community Groups

(If anyone is interested in getting in touch with these community groups, or paying a visit, please contact us using our address below)

House of Love Africa

Members: Serving many children in a network, but 20-30 stay on site. They also partner with a local women's group of 8 women.

Location: Kataara Trading Center, right on the Mbarara-Kasese Highway

Contact Information: Lillian Asiimwe, 0782240669

Father Emmanuel Tusiime

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Activities:

- Caring for orphans and vulnerable children, many infected/affected by HIV/AIDS
- Handcraft making (kids and women's group)
- Guided village tours for tourists
- Short and Long-term volunteer hosting (including accommodation and meals)
- Administrative work
- Computer and tailoring training
- Kids music, dance, and drama performances
- Gardening
- New snack shop
- Child-sponsoring and paying school fees
- Playing with kids, giving them love, medical attention, education
- Psychosocial counseling for kids
- Training of kids' caretakers in things like positive discipline and grief counseling
- Caretakers have a rotating microfinance group

Period of Operation: Started in 2008 (but idea born in 2006)

Achievements:

- Caring for so many children who don't have proper families, home, food, and care/attention

Challenges:

- HIV/AIDS affecting so many children- need help with medical care, but also just love and attention, stigma reduction

Areas of Expertise Needed:

- someone to help with medical care (nurse, doctor, etc.)
 - social worker, counselor
 - improved gardening techniques
 - people to play with children or do lessons in life skills, health education, wildlife conservation, psychosocial/grief counseling, arts lessons—any fun, educational activities
 - administrative organization
 - computer or internet training
 - handcraft and eco-tourism marketing, tour testing and feedback
 - tutoring, homework help
 - sports and recreation
 - Children's ministry
 - dance and drama direction
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Kataara Women's Poverty Alleviation Group

Members: 30 (25 women, 5 men)

Location: Kataara Village. You turn-off the Kasese-Mbarara highway at the Kataara Stage, as if you are going to Katara Lodge. After 0.5 km on that road, you will see our sign/office on the left

Contact Information: Moses Agaba, Secretary 0774373794, E-mail:

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Activities:

- Handcraft making
- Piggery project
- Arabica coffee cooperative
- Tree nursery beds and tree planting
- Savings and loan microfinance association
- Energy saving stove construction (soon)
- Beekeeping (soon)

Period of Operation: Started in 2005

Achievements:

- 4 adult pigs, 9 piglets
- Handcrafts being used and sold in multiple lodges around Queen Elizabeth NP
- Savings accumulated in savings group
- Inclusion in a NAADS/Ankole Coffee Cooperative project to get a wet processing machine for our coffee project

Challenges:

- Creation of awareness about tourism and community development
- Need to improve on shelter where to put handcrafts for sale (build a structure) because right now we're renting someone's house
- Lack of storage facilities for craft materials
- Lack of proper publicity through brochures and a web site, other marketing tools

Areas of expertise needed:

- sensitization on conservation

- improvement of tourism products
 - tree planting and energy saving stoves
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Nzuguto Environmental Conservation Association (NECA)

Members: 28 (21 women, 7 men)

Location: Nyanz'ibiri, near Nzuguto, in Magambo S/C, Rubirizi District

Contact Information: David Birungi, Chairperson, 0772863399

Activities:

- Saving and loan microfinance group
- Handcraft making
- Conserving the environment, especially the nearby wetland
- Traditional dancing and culture preservation
- Planting herbal trees
- Nursery beds for tree-planting
- Traditional Fish Farming
- Fruit and vegetable growing
- Establishment of an eco-home

Period of Operation: Started in 2010

Achievements:

- sending dancers to local lodges like Mweya and Kyambura Game Lodge

- members have learned how to make better handcrafts
- gave herbal trees to local lodges
- accumulated savings in the microfinance group and providing loans to members who are able to make some small businesses.
- Supply of vegetables to nearby tourist lodges and hotels
- Establishment of a traditional fish pond

Challenges:

- lack of market for products like crafts and traditional dance and drama performers
 - no land for tree-planting
 - no proper structure to put our crafts for sale
 - lack of education about conservation of the environment
 - lack of clean water for the community to access (no big tanks)
 - lack of training in selection, planning, and management of small businesses or IGAs
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Butogota Piggery project

Located in Butogota-20 km from Bwindi Impenetrable national Park, started by women to raise incomes to supplement sales from their agricultural produce; of recent, the group has started to attract male members. Currently, the group has 15 members; (9 women and 6 men) . Activities include piggery and Poultry keeping. Some profits generated are saved as a revolving fund that members borrow to meet their problems; the money is paid back with interest. Poultry are kept at a central location; this provides a training ground for all members and other interested community members who are free to keep their chicken privately

Some of the challenges the group faces are:

- Limited capital for business expansion and buying of bulk inputs; because of this limitation, inputs like drugs and animal feeds are bought at retail which makes it very expensive and reduce on profits
- Market is not big enough for the eggs, chicken and pig meat in the locality and it keeps fluctuating, yet the group lack the ability to transport these products to distant markets. This limits on the number of animals they can keep.
- Limited skills; members are not trained in veterinary care, and yet this is a very remote area with limited veterinary services; though the government has tried providing services though National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAARDS) manpower is not enough to cater for services in the whole village. The group end up outsourcing such services from private service providers which makes it very expensive and reduce on their profits.
- The group lack equipments; for instance, hand sprays, feeders and drinkers used are of poor quality because that is what they can afford to buy; also day old chicks, animal feeds are bought from Kampala-450km away which makes it unnecessarily expensive; it would be cheaper to process animal feeds from their locality since they produce maize and cotton seed-essential ingredients for animal feeds; recently the village was connected to the main national power grid; this means, if the group had capital, they would invest in a brooder to cut on transport costs of day old chicks from Kampala and sell chicks to other local farmers

Contact Person

Michael Twinomujurizi

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Kebiremu Batwa Pygmies Community

This community started in 2000 in response to resettlement of pygmies who were evicted from Bwindi Impenetrable National when the forest was gazzeted as a national park in 1991. The displaced Batwa-Pygmies communities have been living as squatters on other peoples land; in 2000, an NGO bought some land and resettled some of them at Kebiremu village in Kayonza Sub County, but a majority still live as squatters. This community has 56 members.

Challenges

- As part of resettlement, a school and health centre was contracted at this settlement to cater for education and health needs of this community; whereas the school is doing very well, the health centre is no longer functional due to lack of sponsors and limited government funding
- Annually, new members come to join this group, and yet there is limited land and housing; to cater for the increased influx of new comers, there is need for donors and volunteers to buy more land and construct more houses.
- Batwa-pygmies lack essential house hold utensils, medicines, and scholastic materials for those going to school.

Contact Person:

Rev Can. Charles Busingye

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Butoha Tukwatanise Turinde Ebyohangwa (BTTEA)

Members: About 150 people (10 groups of 10-20 people each)

Location: Butoha (just beyond Nyanz'ibiri)

Contact Information: Kakyé Vicent, Chairperson

Activities:

- Beekeeping
- Eco-Tourism (in the Kitoma Forest)
- Drama group
- Handcrafts
- Piggery
- Tree-planting

Period of Operation: Started in 2007

Achievements/Challenges: The organization is dormant, needs assistance to revive

Areas of Expertise Needed: Administration, sensitization about environmental conservation issues

Uganda Eco Tours Voluntourism Partner / Affiliate Community Schools

Starlight Primary School

Number of Pupils: Total 304 (Male 142 and female 162)

School Started: School was started on February 5, 2003 with a nursery section only, but now the school has both primary up to P.7 level and nursery.

Director: Mr. Bukenya Willbroad

Headteacher: Nabimanya Richard

Location: Nyakihanda-Butoha, Magambo S/C, Bunyaruguru, Rubirizi District

Challenges Faced by the School:

- Lack of enough buildings for both pupils and teachers
- Lack of enough seats for pupils
- Lack of enough textbooks
- Lack of enough water tanks at the school
- Lack of enough co-curricular equipments (balls, discus, shot put, etc.)
- Lack of enough capital to facilitate good teachers, salaries, and welfare
- A challenge of some pupils, like orphans, who can't pay school fees
- Late payment of parents due to high prices in Uganda and low income earning
- Lack of power (solar or electric) due to the remote location of the school.

Parental Care Nursery and Primary School

Number of Pupils: Total 210, boys and girls

School Started: Started in February 4, 2008

Director: Atuhaire Medrine

Headteacher: Baine Omugisha Norman

Location: Nyakihanda—Butoha, Magambo S/C, Rubirizi District

School Motto: If others can do, we can.

School Mission: To provide quality education for every child

Needs

- Building of permanent classrooms, office, staff room, toilets, store, staff quarters, plus the kitchen
- To improve on games and sports for both primary and nursery section.
- To improve on academics by having sufficient study material like text books etc
- To help the needy, orphans, and disabled children (creation of a scheme in form of a bursary to help the unprivileged children).
- Also to improve on sports facilities and activities and create a playground for both sections.

Do you need to sponsor a child who is unprivileged? Use our address below to contact us for details