

# One School At A Time

Issue # 1

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## THE PROJECT

Welcome to our inaugural One School at a Time newsletter! Many of you may know our program as the Rock Foundation School project. As we have recently added a 2nd Ugandan school to our program, we have changed our name and website to "One School at a Time" ([1schoolatatime.org](http://1schoolatatime.org)). One School at a Time is dedicated to empowering impoverished Ugandan schools by identifying capable leaders, creating mutual partnerships and offering critically needed resources. Our partnerships aim to promote a healthy, self-reliant educational structure nurtured by dedicated teachers and administrators. We work together to create the best possible environment for the children to build a successful future. Our program also works in the U.S. to link elementary schools in Colorado with targeted Ugandan schools. By linking Ugandan and American schools, we hope to educate American children about Ugandan children, and the issues of poverty and the inequitable distribution of wealth.

Please support our work to promote sustainable schools in Uganda, one school at a time. Visit "How to Help" at [1schoolatatime.org](http://1schoolatatime.org).

[1schoolatatime.org](http://1schoolatatime.org)



## OFF TO UGANDA

In March 2008, Patty and Bay, both founders of One School at a Time, returned to Uganda to visit the Rock Foundation School and to add a second school, Kyamulinga, to our program. We had not visited since November 2005 and so we were anxious to reconnect with old friends, make new friends,



and meet our new employee, Hussein Tadesse. We also wanted to see for ourselves what changes had occurred at the Rock Foundation School.

### Rock Foundation School

The Rock Foundation School is looking more beautiful than ever with new paint, a covered kitchen, cement play areas (to minimize the dust), a cistern for washing hands, a compost pile and a brick security wall around the school (replacing the one made of scrap). Every classroom has hand-made teaching materials covering the walls and many classrooms have new desks. A new brick kitchen is in the process of being built, and garden beds

are prepared, ready for planting. (For a complete list of accomplishments there, please see our website [1schoolatatime.org](http://1schoolatatime.org). Patty and Bay met with the Rock Foundation Board one evening and were impressed by their professionalism and their dedication to improving the school.



old outdoor kitchen



New (in progress) brick kitchen

### KYAMULINGA

Our second school project: Patty, Hussein and Bay made a three hour trip west from Kampala to the remote Kyamulinga Primary School. Hussein, with help from a non-profit called Partnering for Africa's Future, [partneringforafricasfuture.org](http://partneringforafricasfuture.org)

identified this rural school as a strong candidate for partnership. While visiting, we were the guests of Mr. Joel Katamba, a pineapple farmer and the owner of the school. You know you are fortunate when a toilet is installed especially in your honor! Kyamulinga School has 214 students from nursery to 7th grade and employs nine teachers. Parents pay from \$7 to \$15

per term for school fees. Even this small amount can be daunting, given the fact that most parents are farmers with little means to secure cash. Recent accomplishments at the school include hiring a bursar, staff members attending a 3 day financial training in Kampala, opening a bank account and post office box, creating a school board, establishing a small business



## Hussein Tadesse

### Meet our Program Manager in Uganda, Hussein Tadesse:

Hussein is a certified teacher with an extensive background working in all aspects of education. Before signing on with us, he worked for World Learning Inc. on a project that helped Muslim girls stay in school. Hussein is married, has three young children and lives in Mbale near the Kenyan border. He works now with One School at a Time to develop capacity building at our partner schools and

to implement our targeted programs. Hussein is passionate about education and children and is a great asset to our program.

### Salaam Alakum Hussein!



project to generate money, and three teachers currently training to obtain official teacher certification. Children's academic performance is excellent as evidenced by the performance of the P7 children on last year's leaving exams. All P7 students passed and passed so well that all were awarded government scholarships to continue secondary studies. The administration of Kyamulinga School demonstrates exemplary leadership qualities and integrity and we welcome them to our program!



Cramped classroom conditions



## Kyamulinga sports day

While visiting, we attended Kyamulinga sports day and watched the children compete with each other in running races, soccer, netball and games. Games with which we were unfamiliar included the following: young children competing to see who can get dressed for school the fastest, children competing with large letter cards to build the word "aeroplane", and children sucking water up from a pot, running across a field and squirting this water from their mouths to fill a soda bottle! There were also hula hoop contests using old bicycle tires for hoops. After the sports were done, there were speeches, demonstrations and food served. One of the students demonstrated to the crowd the use of a microscope which had recently been donated to the school. He asked members of the audience to look at two samples of water, one which had been boiled and one which had not. These participants were able to clearly state that the unboiled water



Water in a microscope

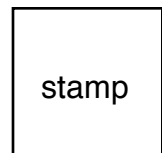
had "animals" moving in it and that none of these animals were present in the boiled water sample. The crowd was dutifully reminded by the student to boil their water before drinking!



## Dr Musaazi

While in Kampala, Patty and Bay made a visit to Dr. Musaazi, an engineering professor at Makerere University in Kampala and the founder of Technology for Tomorrow ([www.t4tafrica.com](http://www.t4tafrica.com)). Dr. Musaazi and his team have developed innovative solutions to some of Africa's most basic and pressing problems: sanitation, clean water, health, and environmental degradation. Acknowledging that trying to radically change the behavior of African people is ineffective, Dr. Musaazi has developed new technologies and devices that work with already established habits and customs. All of these technologies when installed in schools can greatly benefit children. For example, he has created an affordable sanitary pad made of papyrus and paper waste. Girls frequently drop out of school when they start menstruating because their parents can not afford to provide them with sanitary pads. Deforestation is a serious problem in Uganda- wood is used exclusively for burning bricks and for cooking. To address this issue, Dr. Musaazi has developed an interlocking soil brick which requires no firing and is stronger than burnt bricks. Schools which use this brick press can build their bricks on site without a single tree needing to be cut down to fire the brick kiln! Other T4T technologies that can be used in schools are water filtration systems, rainwater harvesting systems, solid waste incinerator (to eliminate dangerous trash piles), fuel efficient cooking stoves, and low cost lighting. One School at a Time now plans to fund programs to integrate Dr. Musaazi's technologies at all of our targeted schools.

*Caption*



Mailing Label

*Caption*