

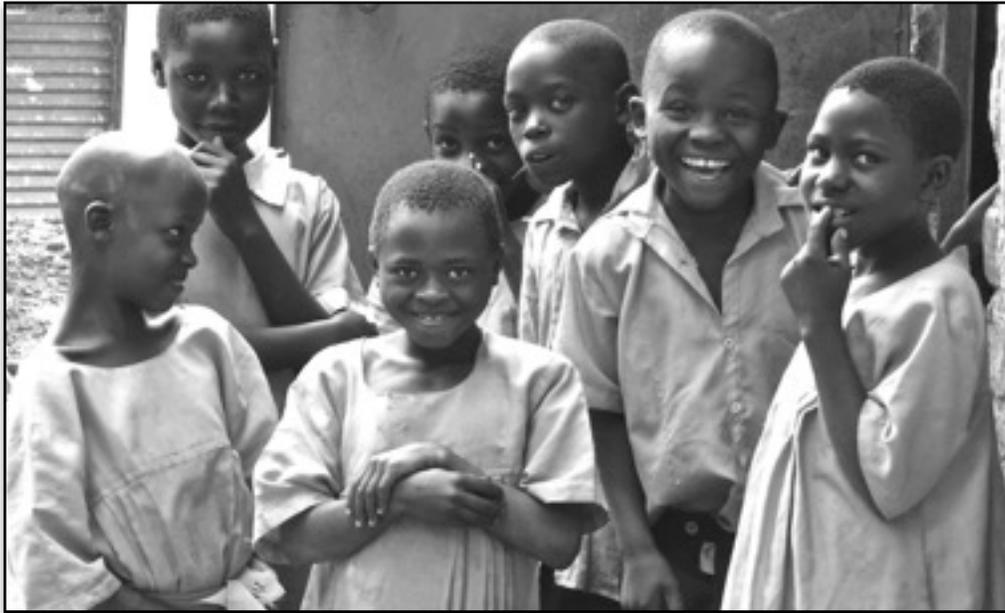


# One School At A Time

Issue #16

1schoolatatime.org

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## WE CAN'T LET THE DROUGHT DRY UP OUR GREAT WORK

Please stand with us: **HELP US RAISE \$45,000** so 2,500 Ugandan students can attend schools with water, shelter, better teaching, and a hope for the future.

Many of you have been part of building something beautiful, from the ground up, at our partner Ugandan schools. You know how wonderful it feels to add goodness to the world. That feeling lasts a lifetime and can sustain us in hard times.

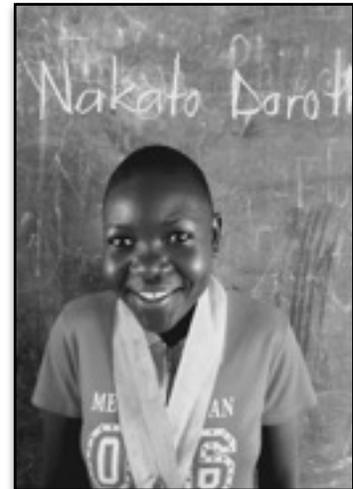
*And now we invite you to be part of our next big and bold vision:*

One School at a Time is launching a **\$45,000 campaign to do even more to improve the quality of our six partner schools and to help older girls stay in school.**

We need your help more than ever before so 2,500 determined students continue to step into classrooms, and not fall back into poverty, early marriage, or pregnancy. **It's easy to donate with the enclosed envelope or at the One School website.**

We believe it is our privilege to love and care for one another.

Help us provide critical support to these rural African subsistence communities already stressed by extreme drought and poverty.



Please make a **DONATION NOW** and help us:

- CONSTRUCT FIVE CLASSROOMS at Kukanga Primary School.
- INSTALL A RAINWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM at Mirembe Kawese Primary School.
- REPAIR COMMUNITY BOREHOLES near Kyamulinga, Kukanga and Bbinikila Schools.
- DISTRIBUTE 550 SANITARY PAD KITS to older girls and provide support so they can respect and care for themselves.
- SUPPORT OUR STAFF ON THE GROUND to bring more parents, teachers and community leaders together.

**THANK YOU FOR DONATING AND CARING ABOUT OUR SHARED WORLD.**

**Who Washes Their Hands?  
Thanks to a \$5,000 Donation,  
More Students Can!**



Recently, friends and supporters of One School at a Time — a huge thank you to Denver Rotary Club 31 — generously donated \$5,000 making it possible for us to install hand-washing stations at each of our partner schools. Rainwater will be collected from the latrine roofs and stored in 5,000-liter water tanks located right next to each latrine.

Studies indicate about 48 percent to 72 percent of people from more developed countries wash their hands as compared to 5 to 25 percent from less developed countries. Vigorously washing your hands at key times for at least 20 seconds with running water is well known to reduce diarrheal disease and acute respiratory infection.

With the installation of these new hand-washing stations, all 2,500 students will have the opportunity to wash their hands and stay healthier in 2017.



**“A Cow is Better than a Girl”**

A father residing in our work area in rural Uganda recently commented to One School at a Time Program Manager, Hussein Tadesse, “A cow is better than a girl.” It’s obvious to him — a cow is more valuable than a daughter since the cow produces milk and baby cows. Girls need food, clothing, education and medical care, all things that cost scarce money in this subsistence community. As far as this man was concerned, a daughter is for marriage and for producing children, neither of which require education.



Fathers make the decisions in these households. In 15-year-old Nurru’s case (a 5th grader at One School at a Time partner school #4), her father resolved after she entered puberty that it was time for him to find her a husband and stop going to school. It was as simple as that. After all, the \$6 per-term cost for school was oppressive. By selling Nurru for a “bride price,” he could buy a cow, a valuable asset. Nurru told Hussein, “I want to go to school!” Crying, she begged Hussein to take her to Kampala where she offered to work as his house maid.

We continue to hope that students like Nurru can stay in school, but the dilemma is clear: Fathers can invest for the long term by educating their daughters, an investment which requires them to wait many years to reap the economic benefits if their daughters enter the work force. Or they can avoid the costs of educating these girls and marry them off for immediate cash payout. To many of these men, the choice is clear.

Teachers at our six Ugandan partner schools lament that fathers rarely come to school meetings. Typically, the attendees are 80 percent mothers. Comments from teachers at parent meetings, such as, “Why did you produce these children if you cannot care for them?” sadly don’t alter behavior or create understanding. Instead, these verbal jabs serve to blame and shame the parents, causing them to quietly rebel. Hussein, using his non-violent communication training, is working closely with teachers to change accusatory language to a language of shared understanding, so that relationships can grow between teachers and parents. And by working with girls and boys together, Hussein is training the next generation of men to be more sensitive to girls’ issues—and to consider women as equal



partners.

Recently, Hussein held a workshop for the children at one of our partner schools to investigate the reasons girls drop out of school. Girls and boys were gathered in small groups to brainstorm, and a leader was chosen to present. The main challenges identified by the girls were: unwanted pregnancy, no secure way to manage menstruation, a heavy domestic work load, and violence by teachers at the schools - including rape. When it was time for the boys to share, they listed karaoke as the major problem. They said that when girls danced with boys, boys

were emboldened to give the girls gifts. The gifts then led to sexual relations and sometimes rape, the boys said. This led to a heated discussion about the intention of gifts and whether or not to accept a gift and on what condition.

Another time, Hussein shared with children about AFRIPads, a re-useable sanitary pad, distributed to all the older girls at the six partner schools. A boy stood up and exclaimed, “Why is he talking about this? This is stupid!” But now, male teachers openly request AFRIPads for their wives and are even willing to be photographed holding them (see below)! By breaking the Ugandan cultural norm that males don’t talk about menstruation, these men are modeling a strong shift in attitude that boys will hopefully absorb over time. And by creating a safe forum for Ugandan boys and girls to engage in honest conversations about the reality of their lives, we hope that boys will grow up to value their own daughters more than a cow and be willing to invest in their futures.



## APPRECIATING OUR DONORS

In the very early days of this non-profit, Paul Kimura and his sister, Diane Kimura, both from Honolulu, Hawaii, believed in us when no one else did. Their consistent year-end donation made all the difference—permitting us to expand the number of Ugandan schools and children we could help.

Bay Roberts, One School co-founder, asked Diane, “Why do you care about poor children halfway around the world?” This leading question led to a lively conversation that touched on many topics—improving communities by educating girls, bettering the outcomes of the students’ lives, and addressing problems of the developing world: no menstrual supplies, AIDS, and abject poverty that can feed terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda and Boko Haram.

Diane shared, “Changing the world begins with educating one child. Imagine being a parent and not being able to purchase sanitary pads or a school uniform for your child. Imagine having to send your child to your local public school—one without clean water on site, without latrines, without educational materials, without even a classroom to protect your child when it rains. Imagine being an orphan fending for yourself, or a child who’s raped. Imagine the outcomes for these kids if One School at a Time did not exist? The comparison of my lifestyle to that of an African child is so disparate, it’s heartbreaking.” She then related that one new suit or designer handbag could pay for the education, nutrition, healthcare, clean water, and safety for one child for a year.

The long-term, community-based, bottom-up, and holistic approach of One School at a Time still resonates deeply for Diane. She concluded, “I feel it is important to support people who roll up their sleeves and get the hard work done. One School at a Time is doing things most people are not willing to do.”

THANK YOU, PAUL AND DIANE KIMURA!

*Warm appreciation to Ken Driese for use of selected photos and to Alice Levine for editing.*



[DONATE NOW](#)



By donating to One School, you are doing so much more than helping a poor Uganda school. You are bettering the life of every child who attends and their families and community. We bring hope and improvement, and a little support goes a long way.

Helping schools succeed in Uganda is not about dumping resources on perceived problems and moving on: it's about building strong partnerships with local communities to harness the remarkable intelligence, vision and commitment that they share for education.

Join with us in this beautiful work! Go to [1schoolatotime.org](http://1schoolatotime.org) and click on: Donate Now. We now accept recurrent donations. Even \$5 or \$10 a month can make a huge difference! Or, if you prefer, you can make a donation using the enclosed envelope.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND JOIN US AS A "FRIEND"



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