

THE CLARION

SPRING 2011

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Ugandan News

Election News in Uganda

In February of 2011 a presidential election was held in the African country of Uganda. Uganda has been under the leadership of the National Resistance Army and President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni since 1986. There were 8 other opposition leaders including Col Warren Kizza Besigye Kifefe and potentially the first woman to be in power, Beti Namisango Turwomwe Kanya. Main election promises include improved health care, affordable education, and finally extending electric power to the impoverished north-eastern region of Karamoja. Yoweri Museveni once again received the most votes and continues as president.

Food Crisis Wreaking Havoc on Daily Life of Students

With the cost of food soaring in Uganda, families are struggling to provide the necessary nutrition for their children. With such high food costs, the lunch programs of many Uganda schools are being suspended because of the higher expense.

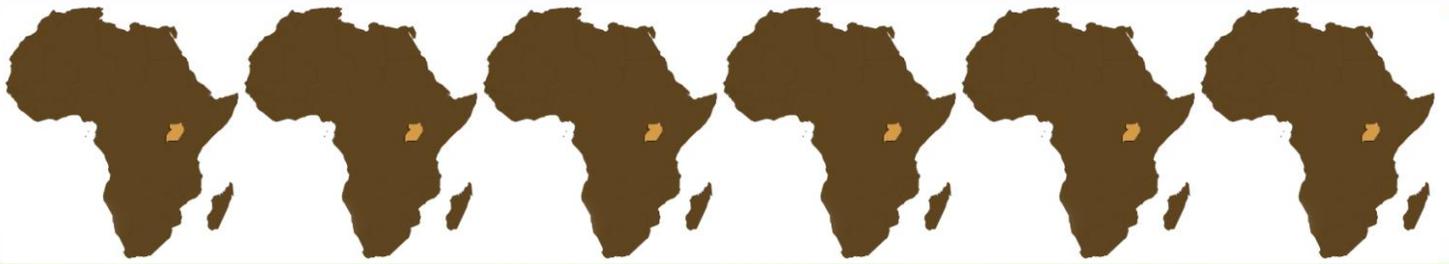
The effects of the food crisis come at such an inopportune time for many schools—exam time. Without nutritional fulfillment, many students lack the focus and attention needed to succeed. One mother expresses her concern for her four children in attendance at school 4km away from home. Since she cannot afford to buy extra food to pack lunches for her children, they must walk a total of 8km at lunch to share the little that they have with the entire family.

Hopefully, the people of Uganda will soon see some relief in the cost of food.



Thanks to your continued support, we are able to continue providing the food needed to feed our Trade School students and for our cooking and catering training program.





Sports in Uganda

27-year-old Canadian MX1 series motocross champion Mitchell Cooke was in Kampala April 10 performing tricks to an astounded crowd. He is already looking forward to next year's event and is hoping to bring other Canadian athletes with him.

It was a win or lose situation for Uganda at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai Sports City and the team fought hard to secure a 74-run win against Bermuda.

Uganda was knocked out as qualifiers of the 2012 Olympic Games after suffering a 4-2 post match-penalty loss to Congo Brazzaville in soccer.

Some of CANHAVE's students were able to have more success at soccer, winning a goat in a local tournament!



Annual Fundraising Dinner



CANHAVE recognizes and thanks its partners and sponsors:

Algonquin College's Culinary Arts Program with the School of Hospitality and Tourism
BMO Nesbitt Burns
CBC
Christ Church Cathedral
Edelweiss Party Rentals
MONTERRA Media Productions
Songmen Six
Steam Whistle
The Country Quilter
TMS Total Media Systems Inc.
Wall-sound Lighting

The annual fundraising dinner was a great success. Held on October 23, 2010 at Cathedral Hall, many participants reported that it was the best CANHAVE evening they can remember. CANHAVE secured more than \$15,400.00 from the evening, after expenses had been paid.

Thanks for the success of the evening also go to many volunteers and contributors. First and foremost, David and Ann Mclean assumed the responsibility for the organization of the dinner and evening's entertainment.

The organizing team was joined by generous volunteers who prepared the banquet and served the guests, entertained them with music, dance, and the CANHAVE video, hosted the event and promoted CANHAVE, worked on ticket registration before and during the evening, decorated and prepared the hall, donated gifts and set up the silent auction, gave and set up the crafts and card tables. The CANHAVE Board appreciates your contributions and thanks each of you.

Priorities and Results

With an organization such as CANHAVE, it is always amazing to see that our assistance to these young people is greatly received and vastly appreciated. Earlier this year, many letters from individual students were received that expressed the effect that CANHAVE has had. We wanted to pass on the heartfelt appreciation of these students so that you have a true understanding of how much your support of CANHAVE truly means.

Isaac Jingo, a student from Kiluli Secondary School, completed his ordinary level and now with the support of CANHAVE he will move to the advanced level. A favorite line taken from his letter, "May God reward you for what you've done for me and the other children." Hellen Nabunya told the story of her life and how her father died while she was in primary five and her family would have been unable to pay her tuition. Her gratitude is apparent and she has been very successful in her examinations. Immaculate Nakabuye, a student attending Mugwamyia Summitt College Kyengera expressed further gratitude for CANHAVE, "you gave me back my dreams that were lost because my parents were already gone." Brenda Namugana, who is currently completing her A level, expressed her excitement of hopefully being able to attend the Trade School after she completes her examinations.

2011 Trade School Priorities

- Build a permanent girls' dormitory
- Install well and upgrade the water and sewage systems
- Add beds, bedding, and furnishings for the dormitory
- Equip the computer workshop
- Add more desks, chairs, and furnishings to the workshops
- Provide learning materials for courses

Introducing the CANHAVE Trade School Administrator



Brother Albert and Trustee Namugera



Brother Albert Angoako arrived at the CANHAVE Trade School in Kisubi in April 2010. He came from two years of teaching at St. Jude Primary School, Kakooze, where he had also been involved in creating the environment for strong communications among the staff and with students. He helped adapt the curriculum to the different needs of young learners and held individual sessions with children in need. His aim is: 'To work with Educational Institutions, NGOs, and or Community Based Projects which understand that demonstrating love through serving others encourages learning and maturity'.

Brother Albert is a member of the Order of Brothers of Christian Instruction. He earned a B. A with Honours in Education in 2008. He is now working part-time on a Master's degree.

Since arriving at the Trade School, Brother Albert has overseen the building of the fence around the main property. He has ensured that good teachers are hired and supported, so that the students are given strong teaching and leadership in their various trades and in community life. Brother Albert was also present for the arrival, sorting, storage and distribution of the large container of tools, educational materials and equipment, clothing and games, sent from Ottawa in late 2009.

The CANHAVE Trade School was registered officially in 2010 to offer a wide range of courses. Students are being trained to prepare for exams which will allow them to receive official recognition of their level of competencies.

Life at the Trade School begins early each morning (at 7 a.m.) with chores and preparations for the day. Everyone realizes that the future economy of Uganda is based on small and medium-sized businesses where strong skills, hard work and a polite, responsible service ethic are hallmarks of success. All the members of CANHAVE Trade School – the trustees, the board of directors, the staff and students are working together to build a strong training program and a vibrant community life built on love, respect, and opportunities for physical, mental, social and spiritual growth.

Brother Albert plays a pivotal role in this progress. He is also the one on site to greet parents, students and visitors and to promote the Trade School in the local area and further afield. He will be the person on site to ensure that our new developments – the building of permanent girls' dormitory and the well, following approved plans – meet the needs of a growing, flourishing institution aimed at excellence.

New Board Members, New Stories

CANHAVE welcomed three new Board Members to the Canadian Board in 2010; Dave Depper, Alexandra Schwabe, and Altaf Sovani. They are all optimistic about CANHAVE's potential, and look forward to what the next years will bring.

CANHAVE welcomed Alexandra Schwabe, a third-year student from the University of Ottawa, to the Board in the summer of 2010. After volunteering for one semester as a communications intern, Schwabe knew she wanted to be a bigger part of CANHAVE.

"The work CANHAVE is doing in Uganda is valuable. CANHAVE has a sustainable approach to development, which is one of the things that drew me to volunteering as a Board Member. The Trade School is on its way to becoming self-sufficient, with students building furnishings in their carpentry classes and starting to grow their own food and fish to be used in the culinary program," she explains when asked why she joined CANHAVE.

"In addition, CANHAVE has two boards; one operates in Canada and one in Uganda, which means that we aren't just forcing aid down their throats. We have real insight to what's actually needed, ensuring that we're efficient and productive with every dollar donated."

As a history major and an employee of the University of Ottawa's English campus newspaper she's looking forward to working on the Board, and will be attempting to re-evaluate CANHAVE's communication strategy and incorporating new social medias.



CANHAVE is pleased to have Mr. Altaf Sovani as new member of our board. He brings many years of experience in numerous fields that will be a great asset to CANHAVE.

Mr. Altaf Sovani's past is very different from those of most of our board members. Sovani was born and raised in Uganda. He left Uganda for Austria in 1972 as a refugee. Subsequently, he immigrated to Canada in 1974 and decided to make Ottawa his home. Because Sovani spent his childhood in the country we are helping, he knows firsthand the need for better facilities and teachers. The work that CANHAVE has done and plans to do will be a huge benefit to the orphans, who rely on CANHAVE facilities. Sovani also understands the immense benefit to building a dormitory for the female orphans who do not have a safe place to go after the school closes each evening. He believes that helping these students will lead to great change and benefit for the country. He believes in Uganda and her people.

Sovani is a valued member with CANHAVE. After many years in the hospitality and business sector, he has over 7 years of involvement as Chair of Hospitality, Tourism & Wellness Program at the School of Hospitality and Tourism at Algonquin College. Altaf Sovani taught and trained many in small and medium-sized businesses, colleges and university. He has been involved as a volunteer with many events and organizations such as The Aga Khan Foundation World Golf Tournament, Continuing Education Teachers' Focus Group, and the Aga Khan Foundation World Partnership Walk. His community involvement and experience, at the local, national and international levels will greatly expand CANHAVE's reach in Canada and East Africa. Sovani will be able to help accomplish the vision and mission CANHAVE and its co-founders have set forth.

Sovani summarizes his philosophy in the following passage: 'By assisting those in need especially through the building of a school and dormitory, then according to my belief, one is participating in the act of giving of hope and faith. For these young girls, they will have a better future and hopefully one day they will play a role in creating a better world for themselves and those that surround them. This is our gift to them and perhaps one day they will have a bigger gift to give to their country and her people.'



A New Perspective

Dave Depper tells his own story about joining CANHAVE and his trip to Uganda.

When I first had the chance to start doing volunteer work for CANHAVE back in 2002, I had no idea that it would actually take me to Africa itself - a destination I'd been hoping to reach since I was a young teenager. And even though my anticipation was high, I had no way of knowing what a wonderful experience it would be.

Thanks to the hospitality provided by Caroline Nakayenga and Joseph Kabali, along with all the volunteers in Uganda working for CANHAVE, this five week adventure inspired me with a huge amount of respect and affection for the people of Uganda, and in particular the students we support there.

As a film-maker, I've travelled to many locations around the world over the past thirty years, but Uganda was the first time I really fell in love with a place and a group of young people. After years of hoping to find a project that would bring me to Africa, it was my occupation that led the CANHAVE Board to send me over there to produce a documentary that would profile our organization's activities and accomplishments.

From the moment I arrived - around 10:00 PM on a Tuesday in late February of last year - the sights and sounds of Uganda were captivating. The road north from the airport in Entebbe to my residence at Kisubi was lined with people gathered around open fires and small shops. Caroline had arranged for me to stay as a guest of the Brothers of Christian Instruction - a Catholic institution from Montreal who had come to Uganda in the 1920's to administer a large secondary school. Since then the Brothers have expanded throughout Uganda and the rest of Africa as a major provider of educational services, and they are now an active supporter of CANHAVE's own educational initiatives.

Caroline and I had come to Uganda at this particular time in order to coincide with the arrival of a shipping container full of woodworking equipment from Lee Valley Tools, along with many other valuable gifts from Canada for the students and staff of the CANHAVE Trade School. Despite the best efforts of everyone in a position of influence, the container itself was not released from customs in Kampala until two weeks after our departure, even though we stayed an extra week in the hope of springing it free.

But apart from the postponed excitement of opening this big blue can full of great stuff, there were much more significant events to be experienced and learned from with the assistance of Caroline and Joseph. Over a six week period we shot video footage virtually every day, travelling to primary and secondary schools located north, south, east and west of Kampala. And when we weren't visiting various schools who were busy educating young students from the CANHAVE Children's Program, we were down the east side of Kisubi Hill, below the Entebbe Highway, getting to know the students at the CANHAVE Trade School.

What an experience! An enthusiastic group of about 50 young men and women, ranging from roughly 18 to 22 years old, were totally committed to soaking up as much knowledge and practical experience as they could absorb. I would arrive down at the Trade School just after 7:00 or 8:00 AM, and the students would already be hard at work in the classrooms, even though their teachers weren't arriving for work until 9:00 AM.

As a group, they were happily committed to each other, their education, and the potential to build a better life for themselves and their families. Perhaps that description is just based on my own optimistic and equally enthusiastic perspective, but the energy and happiness that I witnessed were inspiring.

I can hardly wait to get back there to help out in whatever way I can, and just hang out at the school when some free time comes along. I plan to head back in late May of this year for another month of Ugandan hospitality.

But this time I'll be travelling with a young CBC Producer from Toronto named Ajiki Ike - a lady born in Uganda but educated here in Canada - who will help me to continue work on our CANHAVE documentary by conducting interviews and assisting with the production shooting. In exchange, I'll help Ajiki form a Film Production Cooperative for university students that she plans to establish in Kampala. We also hope to start work on another documentary project that will focus on the youthful population of Uganda -exploring their hopes for the future, their knowledge of other cultures and lifestyles, and the opportunities they perceive to improve their own way of life. It should be a busy month.



How Can I Help?

Priorities for the Children's Program in 2010/2011 are:

- Add more child sponsors to \$360.00 year to support the education and basic needs of our 60 children
- Increase the scholarship fund for students in post-secondary institutions
- Increase the number of CANHAVE students at the Trade School
- Complete the evaluation of the Children's Program

- \$360.00 (\$30.00 per month) will help sponsor a child for a full year of education with basic needs. Our goal is to sponsor 60 children in 2011.
- \$100.00-\$250.00 to develop and manage the CANHAVE Trade School in Kisubi, Uganda, with a view to making its operation sustainable over the long term while also providing post-secondary education to CANHAVE children interested in learning a trade.
- \$___ towards a specific aspect of our work, such as the building of a girls dormitory, purchasing furnishings, or maintaining the grounds.
- \$25.00 membership which includes receiving the *Clarion* newsletter to learn more about what we do, and to vote at the Annual General Meeting, June 7, 2011.



Please make any cheques payable to CANHAVE and mail to the address listed below. You can also donate online at www.canhave.org. Tax receipts are issued for all donations of \$10.00 or more.

CANHAVE Children's Centre is a registered, membership, not-for-profit organization. We encourage individuals wishing to help Ugandan AIDS-affected orphans to join and become a voting member, a volunteer, and/or a donor.

Canadian Registered Charity No. 88992 8396 RR001

CANHAVE
P.O. Box 21045
Ottawa, ON
K1S 5N1

T: 613-565-6214
F: 613-225-8535

website: www.canhave.org
email: canhave.childrens.centre@gmail.com

CANHAVE has two voluntary boards; one in Canada and one in Uganda. The decisions and leadership for planning and managing the programs are made in Uganda, meanwhile the Canadian Board makes fundraising decisions to help best support the children.



**CANHAVE
CHILDREN'S
CENTRE
(CANadians
Helping AIDS
Victims
with Education)**

Dates to Remember...

CANHAVE Annual General Meeting and Information Session

7:00pm, June 7, 2011
Parkwood Church

Annual Fundraising Dinner
Saturday October 29, 2011,
Centurion Centre

Thanks to University of Ottawa student Jessica Jak for researching and writing the articles that made this issue of the *Clarion* a success!