

African Foundation For People In Need

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"Hope for the hopeless"

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FOREWORD:

The African Foundation for People in Need (AFFPIN) was founded in 2003 as a local, community-based, Christian organization operating in the Buikwe District of Uganda. We work to identify the needs of those who are responsible for the care of orphans and needy children in this district, as well as nearby sub-districts. For many years, orphans living with grandmothers, especially along Lake Victoria, have been the greatest victims of neglect and have been denied access to education, proper health care services, and modern infrastructure. AFFPIN works diligently to recognize the efforts and contributions of grandmothers and widows, who over time have provided for the needs of children under their care. By identifying the specific needs of these caretakers and children, we actively facilitate solutions and create projects to improve the quality of life for these families.

AFFPIN's goal is to reduce excessive poverty among rural populations, and improve the quality of life by providing primary education to marginalized children, supplying access to services such as clean water, healthcare and sanitation, creating awareness of HIV/AIDS, promoting skills in agriculture and farming, and creating psychological support for local children and adults. We firmly believe that by working together on programs such as these, we can make a truly beneficial contribution to poverty reduction among communities who need our help the most. Our programs benefit both disadvantaged children, as well as their families, thus giving them a chance for a better life, and an improved future for not only the Buikwe District, but for all of Uganda.

We operate as a community-based organization (CBO) guided by Christian principles and values which form the basis of all of our developmental efforts. We strive to protect the rights of unfortunate children through small-scale development programs and advocacy efforts. Our community-based approach is one of our key strengths, but we have faced significant challenges from the overwhelming number of orphans, less than favorable conditions, and increasing amount of vulnerable children in the areas of our operation. Because there is still an ever-present need for improvement, we continue to need external support through donations and volunteers.

In our strategic plan, we have developed an agenda to further strengthen our response to these challenges. Through our continued efforts in agricultural development, a strong focus on educational improvement and mentoring for children, and a lasting goal to develop a more modern infrastructure for rural communities, AFFPIN hopes to improve the quality of life for not only present Uganda, but for the future of the country as well.

Ps. Bbumba Mark Nicanor

Founder & Executive Director



1.0 Background

A large number of children in Uganda are trapped in situations in which they are at extreme risk due to poverty. In order to survive, these children are often forced into child labor, child prostitution, or similar situations. Such situations can sometimes be difficult for organizations providing international aid to identify because they lack sufficient presence and local knowledge of specific situations and sensitivities.

The majority of needy children in Buikwe live under the care of old grandmothers and widows who constantly struggle to provide their daily meals, sufficient clothing, and proper medical care. Other children are placed to live with relatives who are already struggling to feed themselves, and their own children. This cycle results in inherent poverty which affects not only present, but also future generations.

In the past, several organizations providing aid have attempted to give support to the impoverished, needy, and disadvantaged in Uganda, but were met with unforeseen disappointments and great challenges. These issues resulted in the inability to reach their target goals. These organizations have attempted to address these problems, but they are ill-equipped to deal with the constant growing number of orphans and households which fall below the bottom line of poverty. The African Foundation for People In Need (AFFPIN) was therefore founded to provide

support to poor communities and support the efforts of individuals and aid organizations working to change the conditions of unfortunate communities.

AFFPIN's vision culminated from a humble effort by a local church to help two young children, Bukirwa Sarah and Nantume Christine, whose parents' lives were taken by HIV/AIDS when they were only 3 years old. The two children were left to live with the poorest grandmothers of the village who were unable to provide for them. The church began to administer support to provide the children with food and clothing, but soon realized that much more could be done for these children. They were then taken to school and provided school supplies in order to foster education and a better future. Through the assistance provided to the two children, Ps. Bbumba Mark Nicanor realized that additional charity could be provided to help the local people, and along with co-founders Juliet Luwagga and Margaret Mugala, began a mission to positively impact the lives of the people who so badly needed relief and aid.

In 2003, People in Need, was registered as a grass-roots, community-based organization, whose goal was to combat poverty faced by orphans, grandmothers, and families who were caring for orphans. As People in Need continued their humanitarian work, the leaders realized the issues they were looking to remedy were not only present in the district they were



servicing, but also in all of Uganda, as well as much of the continent of Africa. In 2006, People in Need changed its name to the African Foundation for People In Need (AFFPIN) to better reflect the overall necessity for relief in Africa and also to project the organization's future goals.

1.1 Mission Statement

The African Foundation for People In Need's mission as a non-profit organization is to combat and reduce poverty in Uganda. Our priority is to serve the needs of rural, impoverished communities that receive little-to-no access to basic services, as well as little-to-no national or foreign aid.

1.2 Location

We are based in Nantwala village, Lweru parish, Buikwe sub-county, in the Buikwe district of Southern Uganda. Our location is about 65km east of the capital city of Kampala and 13km southeast of the town of Lugazi. Although we are only 65km from Kampala City, it sometimes takes 2-3 hours to reach Nantwala village because roads are often extremely congested with traffic, especially during business hours.

Nantwala village is a remote, isolated village, crowded with peasant farmers growing small amounts of crops for food. The main access roads to the village are rough, often muddy, dirt roads which are at times difficult to traverse. We are located along beautiful Lake Victoria and the Mabira Forest, which is home to many endangered species and beautiful rainforest

vegetation. We are also just 15km away from the White Nile; a major tributary of the famous Nile River. It is often said that Lake Victoria is a major source of the Nile River.

Because Nantwala is such a remote and underdeveloped village, amenities are extremely limited. However, access to internet, telephone, banks, recommended health care, and other services can be accessed in the closest town of Lugazi, 13km away. While remote, there is plenty to enjoy in Nantwala; the weather is beautiful, the people are friendly, the local food is diverse and unique, and there is plenty of nature and wildlife to observe.

At the moment, there are no truly pertinent security threats in Uganda, especially in the Buikwe district. Threats occur very rarely and are generally isolated incidents which volunteers need not worry about. We do caution however, to care for your belongings in busy towns as pick-pockets are present.

2.0 How We Operate

AFFPIN exists so that poor and impoverished communities have a better quality of life. By focusing on pressing issues such as education, agricultural development, improved infrastructure, modern healthcare, and psychological counseling, we hope to eliminate the poverty dynamic from those which need help the most. We depend largely on national, as well as international volunteers to carry out our vision. AFFPIN considers a community-



based approach to be the most effective way to remedy the issues our communities face. Volunteers work closely with the members of the communities they are assisting in order to easily identify issues, and facilitate active communication between the locals and volunteers. Also, as we are operating as a non-profit organization, we are largely dependent on donations from individuals and private sources. Donors help supply young children and families with nutritious food, supplies for school, clothing, medical care, building materials to improve infrastructure, and sanitary conditions, as well as a host of other extremely important items.

Additionally, AFFPIN works to support the efforts of individuals and aid organizations whose target goals are to provide care and relief to unfortunate and impoverished communities. We focus on identifying specific needs of such organizations, and also the communities, in order to guarantee that these needs are met.

2.1 Core Values

- ❖ Ensure that our conduct is consistent with, and reflects, the values enshrined in the charter of the AFFPIN principles and code of conduct
- ❖ Ensure assistance to the less-fortunate and other persons of concern in accordance with the mandate of the head office. Support participation of local residents in decisions that affect their lives

- ❖ Respect the dignity and worth of every individual, aim to build constructive and respectful working relations, continuously seek to improve our performance, foster an environment that encourages learning, and support positive change
- ❖ Respect the cultures, customs, and traditions of all people. Strive to avoid behavior that would be unacceptable in a particular cultural context

2.2 Principles of the AFFPIN Code of Conduct

We encourage communities to work towards shared objectives and to share equal amounts of responsibility in the developmental processes of our programs. AFFPIN attempts to implement projects which strengthen the unity and interdependence of the family and communities by always operating with integrity and respect. The following principles help us adhere to our standards of service:

- Treat the less-fortunate and other persons of concern with respect and dignity
- Perform duties and conduct any private affairs in a manner that avoids conflicts of interest
- Promote the safety, health, and welfare of not only those we are aiding, but also AFFPIN staff



- Prevent, oppose, and combat all exploitation and abuse of the less-fortunate and other persons of concern, as well as AFFPIN
- Refrain from any form of harassment, discrimination, physical or verbal abuse, intimidation, or favoritism in the workplace

2.3 Goals:

- ❖ For orphans and vulnerable children, ensure access to essential services such as proper nutrition, education, health care, and psychological support
- ❖ Promote improved agricultural and farming skills and community development for adults through our Coffee and Tree Growing Programs
- ❖ Eradicate excessive poverty in the homes of rural people in affected communities by instilling a community-based approach through our Community Development
- ❖ Reduce education marginalization among rural children, particularly orphans and other vulnerable children, through our Family Sponsorship Program
- ❖ Promote awareness of HIV/AIDS to create a supportive environment and prevent future infection

2.4 Support and Assistance

We are monitored by local governments from village and district levels, and are affiliated with other local and international aid organizations. We are supported by our field coordinating office in Nantwala-Lweru village in the sub-county Kiteza, Buikwe district. AFFPIN has established strong partnerships with rural communities, as well as more developed areas of Uganda. We work with international, as well as local volunteers and professional workers, to help transform the vision and dream we have for our target communities into reality.

2.5 Leadership:

In order to achieve our mission, we have a team of outstanding men and women who are committed to helping orphans and vulnerable children achieve a better life. Their contact details are listed below.

1. Ps. Bbumba Mark Nicanor
Leading Founder of AFFPIN
Tel: +256 772 495 112
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Co-Founder & Director
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4. Mr. Bumba Burton
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5. Ms. Irene Georgina Nakimera
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3. Partnerships and Programs

School Partnership

Nelson Mandela is quoted as saying “Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor...that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.” We work to help the youth discover their potential and empower them with the tools they need to take on their future challenges. We partner with Ugandan schools and help them come together to share experiences and address common challenges and important issues of national interest such as education, the environment, and future development. The partnership works to protect and respect our cultures.

Schools learn and work together as one community to achieve common objectives and establish development. Schools and children are taught how to establish long term relationships, how to take on future challenges, how to help their students become responsible

persons, how to live as good citizens of their country, and the importance of inheriting responsibility in every area of life from their aging parents.

To support our efforts, we are currently building the Erinah Manjeri Primary School in Nantwala village to offer needy children in Buikwe unlimited access to education.

Church Partnership

Working with the church in remote, rural areas is a strategic choice for AFFPIN. Christian values underpin our development efforts; promoting inclusiveness in the communities in which we work. We encourage people and communities to listen to each other and to work through development issues together.

The Church in Uganda plays a huge role in developing communities, brings hope to the poor, changes people’s attitudes, and helps to make a change in the lives of the youth of this country so that they may become good future citizens. We work hand-in-hand with the local church to identify and respond to the needs of communities. In working with the church, we strengthen our networks and mobilize communities as one body of Christ. We rely on the church for prayers to allow God’s provision in the work we do. We offer opportunity to churches anywhere in the world to partner with us by doing the following:

- Organize prayer teams to pray for AFFPIN work



- Send youth to volunteer with AFFPIN in missions
- Support our programs/projects through donations

Community Development Program

AFFPIN has a history of delivering developmental programs which help to create a rural community that is economically viable and environmentally sound. Proper water sources and access, as well as sanitation and wastewater treatment, are ongoing issues facing Uganda, especially in rural areas. Uganda's Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) estimates that \$92 million USD is needed annually in order to increase water supply to 95% by 2015. The United Nations reports that many rural communities require installation of protected wells, springs, and gravity flow schemes in order to obtain safe drinking water. AFFPIN focuses on the renovation and rebuilding of water sources and spring wells in order to improve health and sanitation, and to provide the poor with the tools they need to overcome poverty.

We also promote governance at the local level and involve the poor, especially women, in decision-making processes. We believe that every project should "belong" to the people it is intended to serve. We encourage strong parental and family involvement in activities and programs involving children. Fostering ownership through participation of both the children and their families in programs and activities is an important dynamic to improving their quality of life. We encourage communities

to work towards shared objectives and to share equal amounts of responsibility in the development process by focusing on projects which strengthen the unity and interdependence of the family and communities; utilizing existing resources and developing new ones.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Program

HIV/AIDS is still at near-epidemic levels in some African nations. In the 1990's, Uganda saw a shocking increase in HIV/AIDS related cases. Thankfully, over the past two decades, there have been aggressive measures to curtail new infections of the HIV/AIDS virus. Unfortunately, many programs and implementations that the Ugandan government, as well as local NGOs and non-profit organizations provide, do not reach the poorest people. This gap has affected the economic position of people in rural areas. AFFPIN works to raise awareness at all levels through our advocacy and social mobilization efforts by not only educating children and youth about the dangers of the virus, but by also creating a supportive environment for children and families who have been, or are currently affected by HIV/AIDS.

4. Volunteering

AFFPIN offers volunteer opportunities to both local and international volunteers. Our volunteers are generally men and women age 18 and above, but we believe that everyone has something valuable to contribute regardless of age. We have had volunteers as young as 17 before. If you are under the age of 18, senior or



disabled, with or without specific skills, please contact us to find out what we can do for you! As an AFFPIN volunteer, not only will you make a meaningful and positive impact, but you will also gain the opportunity to learn new things, meet new people, and be a part of a great team, working for a great cause. We entrust our volunteers with important tasks that allow them to develop and apply their talents in real conditions. There is no specific time of the year for volunteer recruiting. We recruit volunteers and encourage service all year round in order to find the right volunteer for the right job.

We host families, single individuals, and large groups of up to 25 people. To ensure that you and your party have a positive experience with us, please contact us at least 3 weeks before your time of arrival in order to secure your placement, and allow us ample time to prepare.

We provide pick-up and drop-off services for volunteers traveling to Uganda for the following fees:

- 1 – 3 volunteers \$150 USD
- 4 – 10 volunteers \$350 USD
- 11 – 20 volunteers \$700 USD

While it is possible for volunteers to arrange their own transportation to our site, we strongly recommend you utilize our airport pickup and transportation services. Nantwala village is approximately 120 km from the airport, and robberies and theft are very common in the airport area, as well as on some routes to the village. Additionally, the village is

located in a very remote location and can be extremely difficult to locate.

You can either arrange for your own accommodation at the Mukono Resort Hotel in Kampala, or pay a small fee of \$75 USD a week per volunteer to come live with us. This fee provides you with a private room, bathroom, and 3 meals a day. It also covers orientation, information materials, training, 24 hour support, and administrative costs. We have limited funding and rely heavily on donations to help keep our costs low, therefore volunteers are required to cover their own airfare and insurance.

Volunteer work can get pretty dirty and exhausting. We start at dawn and usually finish in the late afternoon. Volunteers usually work 5 days a week, with Saturday and Sunday off, which allows time to explore individual interests and activities. We encourage volunteers to implement their knowledge and skills in their service, but we also ask that they be open-minded to serve in all of our programs and services. Some things you might enjoy are:

- ❖ Teaching English, Math, or Science at Erinah Manjeri Primary School
- ❖ Working with orphans and needy children
- ❖ Building classrooms, making classroom desks, painting classrooms, renovating a water source for a village, making bricks for future construction projects, etc.
- ❖ Working on a community coffee nursery bed and helping a family to establish a small coffee farm



- ❖ Help with patients while working side-by-side with the local staff at a local health center
- ❖ Planting trees within communities and helping protect trees in an effort to protect our natural environment

The involvement of volunteers is needed at all levels in all our activities. Volunteers add a lot of meaning and their support is incredible in all of our programs. We offer our volunteers necessary support they may need to do their job; this includes orientations, and a support team to work side-by-side with the volunteers.

As stated previously, AFFPIN has several ongoing projects and all could benefit from additional volunteers. Most volunteer openings require you to work directly with us in Uganda, but we also offer other types of opportunities and are open to your suggestions. We believe that no action is too small. Interested persons can apply online while filling our online request volunteer application form, or send us an email: volunteering@affpin.org

5. Projects

❖ **Education Project**

Many Ugandan children are affected by education marginalization. UNESCO reports that marginalization often occurs before children even enter school, and still continues into their adult lives. "The experience of marginalization in education today is seldom a consequence of formal discrimination. Legal restrictions on opportunity, such as those that

characterized apartheid in South Africa, are rare. Yet informal discrimination is widespread. It is embedded in social, economic, and political processes that restrict life chances for some groups and individuals. Marginalization is not random. It is the product of institutionalized disadvantage." AFFPIN focuses very strongly on improving education and has been working extremely hard to establish the Erinah Manjeri Primary School for orphans and needy children living in Buikwe. Since 2006, we have funded the cost of school supplies for orphans, as well as nutritious lunches, and have enabled their participation in a literacy program outside of the classroom.

Our efforts have reduced education marginalization in Buikwe. In 2010, 7 students finished their primary education and successfully completed their primary level exit examination. Currently, we are devising a strategy which will allow us to continue to support these children at the secondary level.

UNESCO's 2010 Education for All Global Monitoring Report stated, "Education has the power to transform lives. It broadens people's freedom of choice and action, empowering them to participate in the social and political lives of their societies and equipping them with the skills they need to develop their livelihoods. For the marginalized, education can be a route to greater social mobility and a way out of poverty." There is nothing like seeing a young person emerge from poverty, go to college, and



return home a well-educated and responsible adult.

❖ **Tree Planting Project**

Trees are important to everyday life because they reduce pollution, improve water quality, and moderate the effects of Uganda's increasingly harsh climate. We work with schools around the country and encourage students and teachers to plant trees in their respective communities. We want every citizen to take part in tree planting. We mobilize schools and organize school events to take part in the AFFPIN tree planting campaign.

In April and December, AFFPIN holds Green Youth Camp, a camp designed to encourage students to take part in our tree planting campaign and be a part of the millions of people around the world who plant trees every year to help save the environment. The Green Youth Camp combines tree-planting activities with sports and recreation to target local schools and promote a more sustainable future.

❖ **Hospital project**

Because Uganda is still developing as a country, healthcare is not up to the standard of many other nations. Many people in Uganda do not live to see their 50's. The child mortality rate in Uganda is even more shocking. 14% of children born in Uganda die before the age of 5. Water borne illnesses from substandard drinking water, lack of access to proper healthcare, and common diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS are all contributing factors.

Much of our effort is focused to improve the health standards at local health centers where the poor receive medical service and care. We work to identify international retired medical workers, in-service men and women, and medical students who may wish to offer their time and skills at our health centers. Volunteer doctors, nurses, dentists, lab attendants, and staff assistants are all welcome and encouraged to share their knowledge and experience in the medical field with local healthcare workers. AFFPIN is diligent in placing those with any medical experience in positions where they can benefit patients and local workers. Uganda's healthcare system is incredibly understaffed in all areas and welcomes outside assistance.

❖ **Building and Restoration Project**

The Building and Restoration project was created in 2005 to assist in the facilitation of infrastructure in rural and isolated communities. We were involved in the reconstruction of water sources in Kiteza, Najja, and Najjembe sub-counties. In a collaborative effort with a union of development volunteers, 50 spring wells were reconstructed in 2011. We also provide construction and renovation of spring wells, pipe networks, and water tanks to aid in healthy sources of clean water.

We have constructed classrooms, houses, classroom furniture, latrines, facilities for farming, and many other forms of infrastructure. We are focused on improving existing facilities, and also beginning new construction projects in the future, while



working with international volunteers. We hope to build community centers in communities which provide an area for sports and recreational activities for local children and youth.

❖ **Community Coffee Nursery Project**

AFFPIN strives to provide agricultural support to our target communities. Coffee growing is extremely important to the life of many Ugandan people. Over 20% of Uganda's population earns all, or the majority of their living, from the cultivation of Robusta, and other varieties of coffee beans. However, many poor farmers in rural areas do not have access to proper support, a proper marketing network, or sustainable seedlings. Since its establishment in 2008, the Community Coffee Nursery Project has assisted underprivileged farmers by providing them with quality coffee and shade tree seedlings, training and technical support throughout cultivation, an established market system, and follow-up assistance. Such a program empowers poor farmers with not only a sustainable means of living, but also instills a sense of pride and accomplishment.

6. Overall Achievements

- ❖ In August 2005, AFFPIN constructed the first classroom block for the Erinah Manjeri Primary School with international aid from World Orphans.
- ❖ In early 2006, the Erinah Manjeri Primary School took in 215 children, many of them orphans, who were found living with vulnerable families, and who could not

otherwise go to school in the Buikwe sub-county area.

- ❖ In 2007, AFFPIN constructed the volunteer's dormitory at Erinah Manjeri Primary School to accommodate future international volunteers.
- ❖ In 2008, AFFPIN, assisted by two volunteers, constructed a chicken farm for Erinah Manjeri Primary School.
- ❖ In January, 2010 AFFPIN was assisted by two young volunteers from Australia in building a four classroom permanent classroom block for Erinah Manjeri Primary School.
- ❖ In May 2010, AFFPIN, with the support of Union of Community Development Volunteers, constructed and renovated 50 spring wells and 14 pit latrines for primary schools in Kiteza, Najjembe and Najja sub-counties in the Buikwe district.

7. Challenges and How You Can Help

AFFPIN takes a lead in helping other aid organizations realize that child sponsorship can create a vacuum for vulnerability. When you choose one child in a family to give support to, the other children may continue to lead a life of vulnerability and neglect. Individual child sponsorship may cause tension within a family and can weaken, rather than strengthen the family unit. At AFFPIN we work to reach out to families of orphans and to provide equal support to all children. This encourages family unity and reduces vulnerability.



One of the greatest challenges that AFFPIN is facing is the overwhelming increase in the number of orphans and impoverished children needing help. In most of the areas where we operate, we find that these children have to make do with old and dirty clothing, poor and inhumane living conditions, and are often hungry and sick. AFFPIN does as much as it can with its limited resources to improve the quality of life while working hand-in-hand with the family. However, because we operate as a non-profit organization, we are strongly dependent on outside donations and funding in order to operate. Unfortunately, medical supplies are very expensive, as are school materials and clothes. Yet, it is these basic items that make a world of difference to these children.

The Erinah Manjeri Primary School, where we place children in need, is operational, but has yet to be fully completed. More classrooms are needed to accommodate additional children, as are additional toilets, teaching materials, classroom furniture, etc. Volunteers were great contributors to the initial construction of the school, and we desperately need additional volunteers to complete our future projects.

The most critical time of the year for us is the beginning of every new school term, when each individual child under our care needs school supplies, uniforms, school fees, and a school lunch, among other things. We want to ensure

that no child is left behind and your assistance could support AFFPIN to continue to provide aid for unfortunate children in villages around Buikwe who are in dire need.

Today, you can partner with AFFPIN to reach a target or community, or an area of your interest. If you are unable to donate your time in volunteering, monetary donations, or gifts of supplies are always welcomed, and are a great way of showing your support. Of course, we welcome volunteers at any of our many projects. We love you and it's our prayer that the Lord may bless you more and more.

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

(Proverbs 31:8-9)

For more information about AFFPIN, and how you can contribute, please consult our website at: <http://www.affpin.org>