

Dear Advantage Africa supporter,

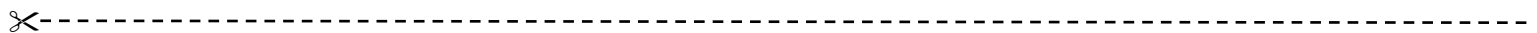
We've been busier than ever at Advantage Africa, developing our new logo, strap-line and website (please visit www.advantageafrica.org) to better inform you about our work with the most vulnerable people in Kenya and Uganda.

Our new-look newsletter, *Milestones*, is another element of the changes we're making. This edition is focused on Uganda and includes stories from people like Faith, who once despaired for her future but now has irrepressible confidence. We also highlight how we're helping over 5,000 children and single parents to overcome profound challenges and find hope for the way ahead.

Thank you for being part of this journey towards changed lives, and our best wishes,



Jane Betts, Uganda Programme Manager



I'd like to help vulnerable people in Africa to find pathways out of poverty

•£10: protect a child from life-threatening malaria •£50: help a widow start an enterprise to provide for her family £100: equip a children's nursery

1 Here is my donation of £ to Advantage Africa (cheques payable to 'Advantage Africa' please).

OR: a regular gift of £ each month by standing order starting on: (date)

Bank name and address:

Account name:

Account number:

Sort code:

Signature:

Date:

Standing order instructions to your bank/ building society: Please pay the amount above, starting on the date indicated and on the same day of every month thereafter to: Advantage Africa, HSBC Bank, PO Box 1888 Coventry, CV3 2WN; sort code 40-33-33; account number 81549200.

2 My name, address and postcode:

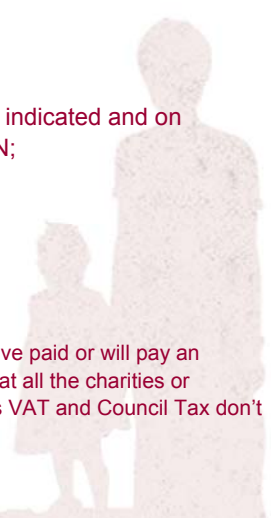
3 If you are a UK taxpayer, please tick the box below to add 25p to every £1 you donate: ☐ I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax don't qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give (28p on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008).

4 Please send to us at the address below. *Thank you.*

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Focus on Uganda

Supporting child-headed and vulnerable households in Masese, Uganda

Advantage Africa has worked with vulnerable children, displaced by conflict and poverty in northern Uganda to the slums of Masese, since 2007. Most recently we've funded social workers from the Adolescent Development Support Network (ADSN) to support 56 vulnerable children and adults there. It's given them greater stability and purpose in their lives and helped the children make the most of their education. One of the young people involved even got a job with ADSN and is now 'giving back' to the project that gave him his big break in life.

The charity Street Child Africa is ensuring the continued success of this project and with the well-being of the beneficiaries in safe, committed hands, we're now concluding our involvement.



Faith tells Jane Betts:
'We are so, so happy!'

Faith is one woman whose life has been transformed by the Masese project. She cares for seven orphans in the Masese slums and has a history of fragile health, so Advantage Africa supported her and her family with healthcare, nutrition and training in tailoring. With her new-found skills, Faith is now an accomplished seamstress and earns a regular income making

uniforms for the local primary school. She was overjoyed to see Advantage Africa's Uganda Programme Manager Jane Betts during her recent visit to Masese and recounted the many improvements in her life. She told Jane: 'I have a business now and a bank account! We might have died without your help, but we can buy food and we are healthy. We are so, so happy!'

Welcome to Advantage Africa's freshly named newsletter, *Milestones*. The new title is part of changes we're making to better communicate our work. This includes our updated strap-line '*pathways out of poverty*'. We still work with inspirational people and their community groups, but this slogan better depicts the tough journey made with our partners and

the vulnerable people we serve to overcome poverty and find hope for the future. *Milestones* will bring you highlights from this work and we'll continue to give each edition a theme. This time it's our programme in Uganda.

We've also built a completely new website at: www.advantageafrica.org with a fresh design, regular

news, **Facebook** integration, information on more than 20 different projects and new ways to support us.

It's our hope that these changes will better reflect the reach, impact and professionalism of our work in Kenya and Uganda. We'd like to know what you think so please send us your comments!

Single parent families in Uganda

There are millions of single parent families in Uganda, many of them headed by widowed mothers or grandmothers. Advantage Africa's long-standing partnership with the Single Parents' Association of Uganda (SPAU) helps vulnerable families to access education, healthcare and improved nutrition as well as find ways to generate income for their basic needs. As these single parents come together to learn new skills in livestock-rearing, candle, craft or shoe making, they also forge friendships, grow in confidence and become more resilient to life's challenges.

The **Bulange Single Parents' Group** has 50 members, mostly widows, who live with their children in cramped slum housing in Kampala. Advantage Africa has helped them to earn an income by making candles and to protect their families from malaria with insecticide-treated mosquito nets. We've also supported them to overcome



SPAU Director Paul Lwanga with single parent Josephine.

the anxieties of living with HIV, write wills and prepare for the future through 'memory work' training.

Alice is a single parent of five young children who is living with HIV. SPAU found her close to death from multiple infections caused by her low immunity. They helped her to receive counselling, treatment and a nutritious diet. Alice now counsels other people with HIV on how to 'live positively'. She enjoys making candles with the other women and talks enthusiastically about how she no longer feels alone, but

has found happiness and hope. Alice led all the women in a spontaneous, rousing rendition of 'Amazing Grace' on learning that

Advantage Africa is based in Olney where John Newton composed the famous hymn. She loves leading the Bulange group in joyful songs and dances and says: 'I don't want to see any sad faces!'



Alice says: 'I don't want to see any sad faces!'

Some names have been changed to protect privacy.



Kate says: 'There is no longer any terrible fever in our house.'

The 60 members of the **Gobero Single Parents' Group** have learned skills in rearing poultry and are now benefiting from good yields of nutritious eggs. Advantage Africa also helped them to access HIV medicines and protect their families from malaria. Kate was widowed in 2010 and cares for seven children. She says:



'Things are much better than before. Since the nets there is no longer any terrible fever in our house.'

Joachim with two of his children.

Fellow group member Joachim is a widower and cares for his three children, Noelline, Charles and John. 'Before, we were living a miserable life,' he says, 'but since the training I have lots of friends and the future is bright.'

Advantage Africa has helped the **Ggaba Single Parents' Group** of 40 families living in slums outside Kampala to meet together twice a week to make crafts such as shoes, jewellery, baskets and table mats. Group leader Mary says the shoes sell particularly well in the local markets. Most of the group is affected by HIV and Eva says: 'Life is still up and down, but it's not like it was

before. Now we can afford transport to get our medicine.'

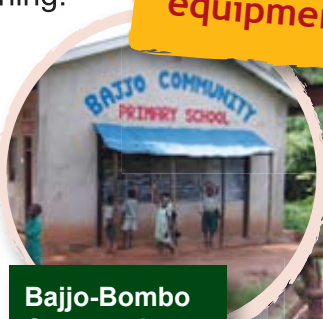


Search for 'single parent Uganda' on YouTube to see a 6 minute film about Advantage Africa's project in Ggaba.

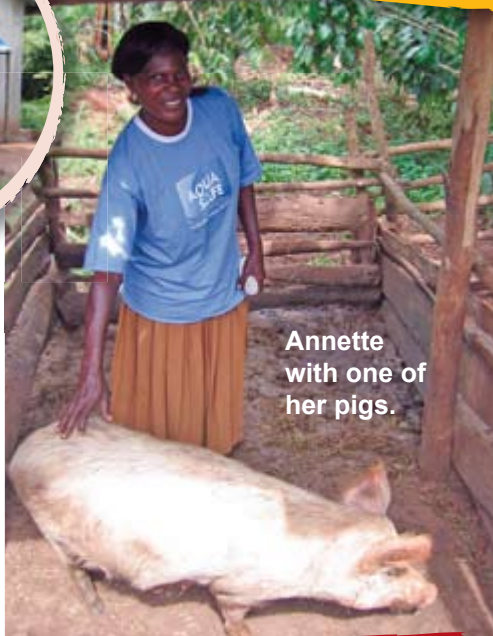
£10 can protect a child from life-threatening malaria
£50 can help a widow start an enterprise to provide for her family
£100 can provide essential equipment for a children's nursery

People in Uganda are passionate about learning. In 2006 the members of the **Bajjo-Bombo Single Parents' Group** asked SPAU and Advantage Africa to help them build a community school in their village, which has many orphaned and vulnerable children.

Seven years later, the school has nearly 300 pupils and includes a thriving nursery section. The children, parents and teachers are so proud of their school. Despite ongoing challenges, the older pupils' academic achievements are in the top ten for the whole of Luwero District!



Bajjo-Bombo Community School.



Annette with one of her pigs.



Eva surrounded by the Ggaba Group's beautiful crafts.

Advantage Africa's support of the **Muzinda Single Parents' Group** has helped 65 single parent families to earn an income through a bakery and pig rearing and also establish a foster home for orphaned children. Group leader Annette can barely contain her excitement as she explains the improvement in the members' lives: 'Thank you for the good work you have done! Thank you for loving us!'



Nursery children in their smart new uniforms.

Advantage Africa's support to the **Nsumbi Single Parents' Group's** poultry-rearing enterprise helped another 30 vulnerable families to earn an income to meet their basic needs for food and medicine. We've also enabled them to establish a much-needed nursery school for the orphaned and vulnerable children in their community. The nursery was opened, amidst much jubilation, by SPAU Director Paul Lwanga and our Programme Manager Jane Betts in February 2013. It now provides 45 youngsters with a foundation of basic learning and fun in their difficult lives, and releases their carers for a few hours each day to earn an income.

Funding news and needs in Uganda

For Advantage Africa to make a practical difference in the lives of Uganda's most vulnerable people we urgently need your support. We'll use your donations to improve the prospects of vulnerable girls and boys and help their adult carers to work their way out of poverty.

Changing lives in Bowa Kibiira

A charitable trust and two of Advantage Africa's generous supporters recently donated over ten thousand pounds so that 60 single parent families in the village of Bowa Kibiira could realise their aspirations for a better life. The kind couple involved also attracted matched funding by first pledging their support through 'The Big Give'. If you're able to donate £500 or more to a similar project, why not ask us how it could be multiplied in the same way?

Ggaba Partnership

Advantage Africa's new partnership with the Ggaba School for Special Needs Children on the outskirts of Kampala will help disabled boys and girls to learn, have fun with their friends and

to reach their potential. The project will also assist parents to support and encourage their children and raise awareness about inclusion and respect for disabled people in the wider community. Just £50 pays for a teacher's salary each month.

The Olney Lions Club recently gave £500 to equip the new nursery in Nsumbi and the funds were sent just days later. The Club said: 'Cash handed over on Monday and already making a difference in Uganda by the end of that week. Now that really is an efficient donation'.



Despair in Katente

In the remote rural village of Katente, Mukono District, we've identified 60 families living in extreme poverty and poor health without a source of safe water or the means to earn an income. Our partner SPAU has helped the families form a group and plan a project that will put an end to the deep despair in which they currently live. There will be mosquito nets to prevent malaria, a well to end the long treks over steep terrain to find water, training in livestock-rearing for protein and

Widows in Katente, desperate for a better life.

income, and memory work to help families respond to the immense challenges of HIV.

£18,000 is required over two years for the project, so we're breaking it up into chunks. £3,000 is needed for malaria prevention, £6,100 for the pig rearing, £5,000 for the water point ... It's going to be a big challenge but this is how many of our projects are funded! Do you think your family, work or church community could fundraise for part of this project?



Full of fun, pupils in Ggaba School for Special Needs Children.

Milestones is published by Advantage Africa, who support people affected by poverty, disability and HIV to improve their education, health and incomes. Our work helps people to help themselves and build a better future for their families and communities.

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