

2014-2015
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NEW SCHOOL BUILDING ON ITS WAY

When Awegys School first began, founder Alice Wegoye taught four students from the sitting room of her home. Every day they gathered around the coffee table inside the small, tired concrete house to get what many students in Uganda cannot afford: a secondary school education. Over time, the number of students grew, and with the support of the Mtaala Foundation, so did the school facilities. New additions were gradually added to support the growing school. A library. A science lab. A school clinic.

And now, a new building marks further progress at the school. Designed to be a storied building once completed, the addition will house classrooms, a computer lab, a dormitory for boarding students, and a staff room for the school's faculty. It stands where Alice Wegoye's house previously stood, representing a notable change from when the school first began.

Such changes are significant in a country where 76% of all adults are literate, and only 65% of women, according to the UN. Across the region, students struggle to attend school due to lack of money for tuition, the necessity of working to support their families, or at times, lack of familial interest in education.

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The new school building rises where Alice's house once stood.

COMMUNITY CLINIC: ALL LIT UP!



Newly installed solar panels provide electricity to Mtaala's health clinic, allowing patients to access health services even at night.

Mtaala completed construction of the Thomas Fest Community Health Clinic in 2014, the only health clinic in the area of Kigo, Uganda. Since opening, the clinic has treated approximately 700 cases per year—and that has been without electricity! And thanks to the generous support of our donors, including London's Angus Lawson Memorial Trust and New Jersey's Rosa International Middle School, the Fest clinic received solar panels and the necessary wiring to provide the clinic with electricity.

What does this mean for Awegys students and the residents of Kigo, Uganda? Now that there is light at night, the community benefits a great deal because many of them attend the clinic in the evenings after work or completing their daily responsibilities. They are now able to access health services even at night. And our students who become ill at night no longer need wait until the morning to receive care. From the students at Awegys School: "Please relay our appreciation to all the donors and everyone who has worked towards this cause."

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SPOTLIGHT ON A STUDENT

NAME: Innocent O.

AGE: 16 **GRADE:** S-2



ABOUT: Innocent was born in Gulu, located in northern Uganda. He lives with his mother and family of three. Innocent's father died in 2005. Innocent will be in Form Two in Secondary School and looks forward to working hard in school to achieve his goals. Innocent loves listening to music in his free time, and he looks forward to sharing about his life in letters to his sponsor.

FAVORITE SUBJECT: Accounting

DREAMS OF: Becoming a traffic police officer in order to reduce the number of accidents and deaths on Uganda's roads.

To become a sponsor, visit us online at www.mtaala.org.

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING continued from pg. 1

In some areas, a formal education is hardly even an option, as there may simply be no nearby schools for students to attend.

And that need is at the heart of the Mtaala Foundation's work in Uganda. By continuing to develop Awegys School and connect with sponsors across the globe, the Foundation is working to provide an education for some of Uganda's most vulnerable children—including orphans and war-affected youth. Improving the school's infrastructure also helps meet the school's long-term sustainability goals, attracting additional students who are able to provide for their tuition and offset the financial needs of those who can't.

Although Awegys School began in the sitting room of a small blue cement house on the shores of Lake Victoria, it is quite a different scene today. The small campus bustles with students, faculty, and staff, and at the center of it all rises up yet another symbol of progress—a new place for some of Uganda's most vulnerable children to learn and obtain what so many cannot... an education.



To make way for the new school building, demolition begins on Alice's former home, the house she had turned into a school for needy students.



During construction, students still attend school in the other classroom blocks Alice and Mtaala constructed.



The foundation is dug and footings for the new building are put into place.



The walls for the new school building rise!

COMMUNITY CLINIC: ALL LIT UP! continued from pg. 1



Thanks to our donors, including the Angus Lawson Memorial Trust in London and Rosa International Middle School in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Mtaala was able to purchase and install a solar system at our Thomas Fest Memorial Clinic, thus improving the quality of health care and dramatically extending the clinic's operation hours. **(Left)** Solar panels are delivered to the clinic. **(Center)** Mechanics haul the panels up on the roof and prepare for installation. **(Right)** The clinic lit up at night!

Did You Know?

- The improved school facilities and infrastructure of Awegys, Mtaala's partner school, have resulted in a larger faculty; Awegys School now employs 20 qualified teachers.
- The school's current population is 126, rising from just four students in a few short years.
- Since being recognized by the government of Uganda, Awegys serves as an annual exam center. meaning a student from any school may sit their national exams at our school. Some of our students who sat for their O Level exams scored a high enough aggregate to enroll in the A Level Science program at Awegys.
- One recent graduate secured a sponsor and is now attending nursing school. Another graduate secured a sponsor and is studying Social Work and Social Administration at Kampala International University.



Awegys students celebrate their achievements: graduating from secondary school! This is no small feat in a country where only 7% of the population graduates from secondary school.



As always, younger children living in the village are invited to celebrate our students' accomplishments, making the school a magnet for young and old alike.

1
Mtaala's program is unique.
We work with you to set goals based on our program's needs and your organization's interest.

2
You get tangible results.
The members of your organization actually **SEE** the results of their and dedication generosity.

4
Reasons to Become an Educational Partner

3
Receive a real thank you.
We will send photos and our Ugandan students will send thank you letters about what your donations accomplished.

4
Build global awareness.
As an Educational Partner, you will help to build relationships between your organization and our students in Uganda.

THIS YEAR AND BEYOND

As a small but ambitious organization, we love it when our supporters lend a helping hand towards Mtaala projects. The following are a few of our goals for this year...and beyond!

THIS YEAR'S INITIATIVES:

GENERATOR: Continue working toward our goal of acquiring a generator to power our new community health clinic and supplement the clinic's new solar system. We are part-way towards our goal, and we welcome your support.

COPIER: Help the school acquire a photocopier and printer to reduce printing expenses of tests, end-of-term-exams, and booklets.



Awegys students model tee shirts donated by Carusi Middle School in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

ONGOING PROJECTS INCLUDE...

SECURING STUDENT SPONSORS Mtaala's greatest need is sponsors for students. For a small monthly fee, sponsors provide tuition and room and board for our students. Our sponsors are the heart of our program.

THE THOMAS FEST COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC: Mtaala's Community Health Clinic needs ongoing support to fund the staff and acquire necessary supplies.

FUTURE DREAMS...HAPPENING NOW

RAISE FUNDS TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CLASSROOM BUILDING: Awegys Secondary School was created in the humble, two-room home of school founder Alice Wegoye. Built on a small piece of land donated by Alice, Mtaala plans to maximize use of the land by creating a new building several stories high that would house classrooms and a dormitory. Mtaala has begun construction of this building, and completion of this building would also move Awegys Secondary School closer towards its goal of self-sustainability.

HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN: TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THESE PROJECTS
MAKE A CONTRIBUTION, OR BECOME AN EDUCATIONAL PARTNER WITH THE MTAALA FOUNDATION, VISIT WWW.MTAALA.ORG.

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OUR MISSION

The Mtaala Foundation creates and supports education communities for vulnerable children and at-risk youth, including those affected by poverty, war, and HIV/AIDS. Empowering youth through learning and giving back to their community is a central tenet of our work.

The foundation partners with individuals and villages to create secondary schools where none exist and connects the schools' students with international sponsors to fund their educations.

LEARN MORE AT
WWW.MTAALA.ORG 6

