

The News

KUGATTA



FAMILY PRESERVATION MATTERS

from Jessica Davis

Preserving and empowering Ugandan families is at the heart of everything we do here at Kugatta. What does it mean to preserve a family? Often, when an already vulnerable family has been impacted by a tragedy such as disaster, loss, or poverty they find themselves in a desperate place. They need help to get through this difficult time, but resources and programs to help in such a situation are limited in Uganda. Orphanages were originally created in many developing countries for exactly this reason. To step in and temporarily meet the needs of a family and their child while they get back on their feet, but as with many things in our world something meant for good was quickly corrupted. At some point there was a realization that orphanages filled with children combined with the westerners desperate desire to "help" often inspired exorbitant donations. From here the exploitation of vulnerable families and children exploded.

Children were sought out not taken in when necessary and families were targeted in times of desperation and great need. Every parent wants what is best for their child, combine that with a tragedy or poverty and you have a situation ripe for corruption. Health concerns, lack of access to education, and lack of resources for their children became the toolkit used to manipulate and pressure families into separating from their children. Most families were given false promises of a temporary solution, only to be permanently separated from their child, grandchild, niece or nephew.

current needs

therapy session for a mother that cannot be reconnected with her child

business startup for a single mother

camera

Transportation fees

Thank you for considering a donation to Kugatta. Any amount donated helps reach our goals and meet needs.

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Kugatta seeks to step and provide options for families that are most vulnerable to this type of exploitation. We do this in many different ways and are always learning and adapting to ensure we are doing everything we can to prevent the needless separation of these families.



A YEAR IN REVIEW: from Gladys Bulyaba

2022 Was an incredibly busy but successful year for Kugatta and the amazing families we are honored to work with. This year Kugatta enrolled 9 children into primary schools throughout the country and 3 young adults into trade schools. The trade school students will complete their studies in 2023 and Kugatta will continue to walk alongside them as they prepare to join the Ugandan workforce. Access to an education empowers individuals with the knowledge and skills to fight poverty, work hard, and raise their family.

Also in 2022, we introduced Jaja W (grandfather) to our Yamba Program. This program provides families/individuals with a successful business mentor (usually within the field they are pursuing a business within) as well as a small loan to get things started. One of the unique aspects about our Yamba program is that when that money is paid back it remains attached to that individual for them to continue to borrow against, to grow their business further or to even start a new business if they wish. Jaja W started a maize business which has had great success and helped him provide stability for his family. Kugatta was able to include 6 new families join their Yamba Program in 2022 and we would love to bring in enough donations in 2023 to raise that number significantly. Economically empowering families to be independent is a vital part in preserving families.

We were fortunate to have a licensed therapist join the Kugatta team in 2022. She has provided a much needed safe space for families and children that have suffered from the impacts of separation through Intercountry adoption to share openly about their feelings as well as find ways to work through their heartache and loss.

Kugatta installed our first water tank in 2022 for one of the families on our program. A water tank is a life giving source for many reasons. Many of the families on our program have to travel far for water, and even then the source is often not clean or safe to drink. Having a tank installed provides easy access to clean drinking water that can be used for many things beyond drinking, such as; farming, washing, cleaning, and even a source of income.

Kugatta reunified 2 children home with their Ugandan families in 2022. Both children are now attending a very good schools in Uganda and are thriving. They both have access to a licensed therapist as well as well as enjoyed group sessions where they are able to meet with peers that have also experienced family separation, intercountry adoption, or reunification.

Kugatta installed 4 solar panels this past year (full set with lights and battery). This provided each family with much needed access to good light and security at night.

Kugatta cares deeply about the families we work with. By checking in with them throughout the year and taking time to listen to them and their needs is just one way we demonstrate this to them. With every visit we perform family assessments on how each family is doing in different domains and identifying what each family needs in an effort to keep families together and avoid unnecessary family separations. We also visit schools with parents to ensure they are involved in every step of their child's future. We meet with their teachers to discuss grades, successes as well as any concerns they might have.

There was an Ebola outbreak this past year in Uganda. During this time we had a few families that were in zones that were locked down. Kugatta was able to provide relief packages to families who live in those villages. Lastly we celebrated Christmas with all the families on our program providing over 18 Christmas meals, 26 chickens, and 5 goats!

from the heart of a mother...

I am an Ugandan mother to 5 children. Many years ago I was going through a very difficult time and struggling greatly with poverty. Because of this, I lacked access to much needed medication, education, a proper shelter, and food for my family. I was approached by a local friend who said she knew of an organization that could help during this difficult time. She connected me with program that helped children gain access to an amazing education. The only catch was you had to allow your child to go live in America while they were being educated. As a mother, I want what every good parent wants for their child, and that included access to a good education. How else could I ensure my child wouldn't face the same struggles I was facing at that time. I never wanted to give away my son but I was given no other choice so I accepted. She promised my son would be updated on his well-being often that he and would return to me after his schooling was finished, but this was not true and I have regretted this decision every day since. Not long after I was separated from my son, the organization stopped taking my calls. I was worried but I had no way of getting information other than through them so I tried to be patient and not upset the people that had access to my son, but things never changed. When my life started to change for the better I was determined to be reunited with my son and went looking for him. Many people lied and misled me as I desperately searched for him. I was relieved when I found Kugatta. They listened to my story and even found my son, unfortunately the family he is with refuses to allow me contact with him. Kugatta has encouraged me to still write him letters and record messages for him so that if he ever comes searching for me my words over these many years apart will be available to him. Not a day goes by that I don't wish for my son to return home and into my arms. Although I have many children my family will never be whole until my son has returned. Mohammed, my son, if you ever see this I want to tell you I miss you, I love you, and I think of you every day. -Mama H

