

# We Rise by



## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

[www.gracevillauganda.weebly.com](http://www.gracevillauganda.weebly.com)

# Lifting Others



## Vision

A world where all children are loved, enjoy equal opportunities and resources, and live happy lives free from discrimination, abuse and exploitation

## Mission

To provide a loving home & sanctuary for orphans, abandoned and abused children, equipping them with programmes that empower & interventions that meet their health, academic, social and psychological needs





## GRACE VILLA FOUNDATION 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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# MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

## *Dear Friends*

I bring me great joy to share what wonderful moments, miracles and achievements that 2018 held for your children. I shall also share the challenges and lessons learnt.

Through you, 215 orphans, abandoned and abused girls were rescued, and 52 vulnerable families lives were transformed. This was a 40% increase from the year before. We intervened through the 9 strategic pillars around which Grace Villa revolves:

- Shelter
- Academics
- Health
- Sports
- Food
- Skill building
- Counseling
- Advocacy
- Sustainability

Our work continues to be inspired by the children, whose lives we see evolving beautifully, sometimes even dramatically, before our eyes. Their background stories are tough, but our children are tougher. My vision was to set up the same sort of loving home that most of us grew up in. The difference is in the programs and interventions put in place, so that by the time a child leaves our home, they walk out as confident, well equipped young ladies – ready to be positive influences on their families, communities and the world.

Our achievements to date are the fruit of many hands. We are filled with gratitude and renewed hope every day, knowing that we have people all over the world thinking about us, praying for us and supporting our mission through all the obstacles and challenges that work of this magnitude is bound to face.



## **Allow me to particularly acknowledge**

The Grace Villa Board, Chaired by Rev Canon Grace Nyonyozi Ndyabahika, who faithfully serve, intervene, guide, support and direct.

The management and staff of Grace Villa who are the cornerstone of every piece of work that goes on at the Foundation

Our 2 very active steering committees: The Dream Team and The LaBuda Fellowship

My siblings Apolo Ndyabahika, Rachelle Bahika Matembe, and their families who relentlessly walk the Grace Villa path with us, and are main links off the continent.

Members of a committed group of supporters called "The Grace Villa Family"

Our volunteers, who transcend geographical boundaries and cultural and religious differences to benefit our children with their varying expertise. They often think outside the box for us, coming up with strategies to help our programs grow.

The donors and partners who are the backbone of our financial health. Through you, we are able to implement these life changing programs.

All our partners and stakeholders within the Kabale District local government for the healthy working relationship we share. We look forward to continuing to work closely with you in the years to come. Special mention to the

“  
215 orphans, abandoned,  
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increase from the year before.”

Kabale District Senior Probation Officer Madam Monica Muhamuza who has tirelessly worked with our cases through the year, intervening for our home, for our children, and for their families

Last but definitely not least, we thank the Kabale local community. Our neighbors have embraced and supported the children and our cause in a beautiful, awe inspiring way. Clothing and feeding them, offering mentoring, counseling, home visits, and many other interventions that matter and help nurture these growing children.

Grace Villa exists to change a desperate narrative. Our vision is to make sure that as many little vulnerable girls as possible find nurture, food, safety, love, opportunity and empowerment in an environment that allows them to thrive. And we are achieving this together!

Today, we are one of the strongest girl child interventions in South Western Uganda. Thank you for joining hands with us to make this possible. I am honored to share this 2017 Annual Grace Villa Report with you today, as we look forward to building upon and learning from these achievements, triumphs and tribulations in the years to come.

Gratefully yours,

**Ruth Ndyabahika** | Founder & CEO

*We Rise by Lifting Others*





## Message from the Board of Directors

2018 was a record year for Grace Villa, Kabale. For the fifth year in a row, we reached a new milestone in each one of our interventions.

**W**ith so much of the world oppressed by crises, conflicts, poverty and imbalance, how can we play our part to create equal opportunity, save lives, improve health, create stability, peace and prosperity in one of the most beautiful yet fragile regions of the world - Kabale? Our answer is: investing in people.

*The average educated girl will invest 90% of her future income in her family, compared to 35% for a boy.*

**Rev Canon Grace Nyonyozi Ndyabahika**  
President



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## Investing in human capital returns huge dividends. By improving the capacity of people to govern, educate and produce for themselves, powerful and lifelong positive foundations can be laid.

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Investing in human capital returns huge dividends. By improving the capacity of people to govern, educate and produce for themselves, powerful and lifelong positive foundations can be laid. Research shows that investing in the girl child means a better life for everyone in their communities, including their brothers, fathers, future husbands and future sons. The average educated girl will invest 90% of her future income in her family, compared to 35% for a boy. As an educated mother, an active, productive citizen and a prepared employee, she is the most influential force in her community to break the cycle of poverty.

This is exactly what we do every day at Grace Villa on Makanga Hill, in Kabale, Uganda. Over 200 vulnerable, orphaned and abandoned girls are being taken care of. Through them we lay the basics for a healthy society, through education, access to healthcare, improved nutrition, mentoring, counseling and skills development.

To all who are learning about Grace Villa for the first time, we hope these pages will inspire you to join us on our mission.

In this report, you will read about the way we are using innovative programs to build community resilience. You

will find out about activities that we carried out in the different thematic interests of Grace Villa throughout the year. And you will read about the ways that Grace Villa is engaging government, stakeholders, community, the private sector, and civil society to invest in the girl child and their quality of life; preparing them for self-reliance and reintegration without compromising the goals and vision that we have for each one of them.

In a year of increasing demands, less funding and growing and constantly shifting regulatory requirements from the Ministry of Gender, the pressures on our staff have been intense. But they have shown determination, wisdom and resilience, and we are proud of what they continue to achieve.

I must pay tribute to the exceptional quality of our staff and our operational leadership – Grace Villa Founder and CEO Ruth and her team. I want to add my profound thanks to the board for their work and vision. Thanks, too, to all who have stood with us – our supporters and volunteers – for your amazing dedication to the children. I hope they share my abiding sense of privilege in being involved with this work for God's Kingdom and God's justice.



O

n one of Kabale's serene undulating hills called Makanga Hill lies our residential home, Grace Villa.

It is a lovely, old fashioned, sturdy home with a brick and mortar finish, with lush green, plants and flowers all around it.

The home is gated, and surrounded by a wall on one side and a hedge on the other.

It is within this home that Grace Villa's founder Ruth resides with 24 girls between the ages of 3 and 21. The rest of the 200+ girls are under community and kinship care.

The first course of intervention at Grace Villa is to empower and enable extended families to care for the orphaned girls in their own home settings. These consist

of mainly grandmothers, and sometimes big sisters, aunties and older cousins. It is only those children that we completely fail to settle with safe, extended family, or those who are brought to us by the police or probation offices that are given a home at Grace Villa.

The Matrons oversee all home affairs. The girls follow a timetable to participate in the various home and compound chores, just like any child would do in a home. Meal time is family time. The girls gather around the table to pray, eat and share what happened that day. Each girl has a bed of their own, in rooms that we try to personalize as best we can. Each school day, the girls go to school in the morning, and return home in the evening. Over the weekend the girls do chores, general cleaning, and just hang out in the mornings. The afternoons get

busy, as this is our Project Day. Every child that Grace Villa supports is expected to come and participate in the various games and activities that have come to define Grace Villa. Sports, tailoring, baking, music, dance and drama, debate club, knitting and mat making.

Each week, these activities are complimented by prayer, praise and worship, life skills development talks and counseling sessions all aimed at raising an all-round, responsible and God fearing girl child.

Sunday's are for church in the morning, then we all go home for lunch, which is an event. This is the one day we have an elaborate meal, cooked by whoever is slated on the time table. Each "chef" tries to outdo herself each time. In the afternoons we go in nature walks, the girls read, write in their journals, watch television, play board games or simply relax.

In Ruth's words, "We have the precious gift of getting to watch them grow and evolve each day". They all have a tough story to process through. Our job is to nurture them towards the realization that their horrific pasts do not define them, and that they are now safely home.



The individual stories of each one of these 140 beautiful children in our care are what push us to keep struggling, raising our voices, writing, traveling around Uganda and the world to tell their stories and inspire action.

# 24

Grace Villa's Founder  
► Ruth resides with 24 girls between the ages of 3 and 21 .

# 200+

The rest of the 200+ girls are under the care of community and kinship care, which we call "Grace Villa Extended Family".





# The Vision

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**A** world where ALL children are loved, enjoy equal opportunities and resources, and live happy lives free from discrimination, abuse and exploitation.

You are able to read this, but half a billion women and girls around the world can't. 130 million girls are prevented from going to school today, 1,000 will be infected with HIV today, and 144 girls will die as a result of violence. Today, and every day after that.

Our country Uganda has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Sub-Saharan Africa, with over 25% registered every year. The average girl in Kigezi faces multiple threats right from the day she is born. Caused by chronic poverty, discrimination, lack of education, deeply entrenched prejudices, poor nutrition, inadequate protection, and violations against her very body. As she grows into an adolescent, she is young and entering puberty. A very sensitive period in her life cycle during which she would typically need extra attention. Instead, her protecting shield is removed and she is exposed. Resources are unavailable.

Overwhelmed by need and helplessness, she falls prey to exploitation. The generally held assumption in Uganda is that extended family and community provide a safety net of protection for orphans following the death of their parents or guardians. However, we have come to find that this narrative has shifted. Extended family and community systems have been weakened by disease (predominantly HIV), dire poverty and rural urban migration. They rarely exist today to play this role.



# Who We Are

**F**ounded in 2013, what began as a family response to this urgent need has grown into one of the strongest girl child interventions in Kigezi, South Western Uganda.

Today, Grace Villa is a group of people from all walks of life coming together to create a family and safe community. We recognize that early years matter so we invest in equipping and empowering our girls with nurture, a healthy mind through proper education and engaging them in debates, book clubs and dynamic social interactions; a healthy body through nutritious meals, health check-ups and exercise; and instilling confidence through nurture; and the ability to protect their bodies through safety, knowledge and selfdefense skills.

We currently have over 200 plus children under our care. 24 of these girls live within the Grace Villa home itself. This number fluctuates through the year, taking into account a number of things.

- ◆ Emergency temporary girl child placements that we receive from the Kabale Probation Office and Uganda Police
- ◆ The school calendar – as some girls attend boarding school which means they are away during the school term
- ◆ Home visits during attempted reunification and reintegration with surviving relatives or foster families. A typical home visit is over the long Christmas school break.







# OUR INTERVENTIONS

## 1 A Safe Home

*Since we opened the doors of our home to our first child, we have created a safe, nurturing environment in which children who are in transition, those who need a safe place, and those who are homeless find a loving nurturing home and critical protection away from predators.*

**T**oo often, our girls tell heartbreaking stories of sexual violence. Some as young as 7 years of age. Predators take advantage of under protected and vulnerable children, trusting that this – coupled with the children's ignorance of their rights, fear of being blamed or fear of stigma will keep them silent. Sadly, it often does. Others are sold by their own family to what we call

Pedophiles, in exchange for land or money.

In response, during the long 3rd term holiday of 2017), we launched SAVA. Sexual Assault Victim Anonymous. Through SAVA, we address recovery and coping tools such as writing, art therapy, workshops, group sessions, debates, music and dance. We also teach the children to avoid potentially dangerous situations, and steer them towards replacing ignorance, fear and panic of dangerous situations with confidence, awareness of personal boundaries, safety skills and sexual and reproductive health information.

Each child that we take in is registered with the Kabale District Probation Office, and has a court court.

We hired a female security guard from a reputable security company. The home is gated and enclosed within a strong fence, with rules and regulations pertaining entry and exit..

Within the home, each older child is paired off with a little sister through an annual ballot, and they become each other's responsibility for that year.

We encourage our staff, community members and educators to be proactive in issues pertaining to child protection.

## 2 Nutrition

**A**fter one has eaten, it is customary to say “Wa-Teeka” to the cook. This is a phrase of appreciation in Rukiga, the language used in Kabale, South Western Uganda where Grace Villa is located. Every school afternoon, 60 children say this phrase at Grace Villa. For over a year now, we have prepared a nutritious lunch for school going children. For most of them, this is the only real meal they will eat in a day.

## Background

When we started to recognize faces of children we knew in the trash looking for food, or at weddings waiting to scrape left overs off visitors plates, we knew we had to intervene somehow.

The communities that Grace Villa serves have reputations as tough towns with the same problems faced by similar semi-urban, low income neighborhoods around the world. Families migrate from their villages in search of opportunity in Kabale town, and end up finding a tough life, and often times failure. Many often turn to crime, truancy and substance abuse. These are the parents and guardians of our Wateeka children. Disease like HIV is prevalent, which leads to another common genre: The child headed households.

*Kabale Department of Health ranks Malnutrition at number 4 on the list of the biggest preventable causes of child mortality in Kabale District. With over 1,000 registered cases every year, malnutrition ranks second to Malaria (2,666 deaths a year) and higher than HIV/AIDS (over 600 a year). Here, 1 out of every 5 kids goes to bed hungry each night.*

Most homes are large, with six or more children with no family land to cultivate, no animals to rear, or other source of regular income or food. They can barely raise the money they need for school fees, let alone lunch, leaving the children to spend the whole day hungry. A hungry child cannot concentrate in class. Afternoons are the hardest, causing many to skip afternoon classes. Children who perpetually dodge afternoon lessons end up missing significant classes, and are highly likely to drop out of school.

A hungry child simply cannot learn. Hunger intrudes on their mental health, physical wellbeing, school performance, morals, social skills, safety...their very future. On the other hand, a daily meal is a powerful incentive both to the student and to struggling parents, or even those hesitant to send their children to school.

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## The Plan

To end child hunger in Kabale, one child at a time. We chose to start at an existing institution - Makanga Primary School - a school with a student demographic that comprises of some of the poorest children in the area. It did not have a paying lunch program to begin with, so we had to start from scratch by building and stocking a firewood burning kitchen. We bought all essential utensils. We hired staff: 2 cooks and a teacher to coordinate the program.

## Results

Parents who previously chose to send their children to work with them or to take care of the other younger children or sick relatives at home are now choosing to send them to school. Girls were often the first victims, and this is where we see the most dramatic rise in attendance.

## A lower number of school drop outs.

In the schools that the children attend, teachers are reporting more alert students, improved class attendance, heightened attention spans and class participation.

Children who live on their own in child headed households can now concentrate more on their studies than on searching for food each day from outside restaurants or even from trash. They are now healthier and safer.

Grateful parents have expressed relief in the knowledge that even if all else fails, their children are assured of a meal every single school day.

**Wa-Teeka has transformed the lives of the hired cooking staff, which consists of parents who were themselves struggling to make ends meet. They now receive a salary.**



# Wa-Teeka Free Lunch Program

We started off by serving 50 children a free lunch every school day. This year, the number has grown to 60. Our aim is to increase this number by 10 to 50 each year.

Another big update is, Wateeka shifted its base of operations. We moved the lunch program away from the school to our compound within the Grace Villa walls for purposes of better monitoring and accountability. The Grace Villa children had a lot of fun beautifying a temporary wooden structure, painting the outside of the new kitchenette from which the food will be served. I'm the mean time as we fundraised for a proper kitchen, we used firewood & 3 stones to cook, just like many of our grandparent's did before us. As lovely as it sounds, the reality is that firewood is expensive, smoky, slow cooking, environmentally unfriendly, and can be dangerous in regards to smoke inhalation, carbon monoxide poisoning, and danger from burns.

## Contributors

We continue to be uplifted by the support that comes in to feed our children. Throughout the year, supporters created fundraising efforts over social media through which we received funding and food for Wateeka. Supporters visit our home throughout the year bearing food. Still more opt to put sacks of posho, rice and other food marked for Grace Villa on buses. The local community too has embraced the lunch program.

Special thanks to Ms Joanita Bakeinaga, a clerk at Mpambara Cox Foundation who has given the home 5 liters of milk every single week day without fail for the last 3 years.



**Special mention:** Ms Joanita Bakeinaga, a clerk at Mpambara Cox Foundation who has given the home 5 liters of milk every single week day without fail for the last 3 years.





# We received tremendous corporate support!

## Kingdom Rice

April 21st, 2017: 10 100kg sacks of rice  
May 25th 2017: 5 100kg sacks of rice  
July 27th, 2017: 5 100kg sacks of rice



## Vivo Energy/Shell Gas via Tokosa Food festival

On Sunday June 17th 2018, Vivo/Shell organised a fundraiser for Grace Villa during the Tokosa Food festival



*All proceeds went towards building a brand new Wa-Teeka kitchen, fitted with cooking appliances, that use gas. They are providing us with free gas for a full year. All these interventions have taken Wa-Teeka to new heights.*

# Tokosa Food festival





## 3 Education

**U**ganda has the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in Sub Saharan Africa with over 25% registered every year. Furthermore, Uganda is ranked as the 9th hotspot of child marriages in the world – a violation of Article 16(2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The situation of orphans and vulnerable children in Uganda is more often than not, a helpless one. They live in abject poverty deprived of the basic necessities of life: dignified access to food and nutrition, acceptable living conditions, psychosocial resources critical to development and health, legal and social protection, education, and health care. There is no stronger weapon against poverty disparity, early marriages and teenage pregnancies other than education. We are making great strides towards gender parity in our community.

Today, we are proud to say that 200 Grace Villa girls are enrolled in Pre Primary, Primary, Secondary School, University and Vocational Training schools. Each child receives school fees, uniforms, sanitary protection, shoes, a backpack, and all essential scholastic materials. We assist each child where needed with homework and after school tutoring. They have full access to our computers, and books in the Grace Villa library. They are facilitated to go on school field trips.

Grace Villa is actively involved in the Parents Teachers Associations (PTAs) of the different schools in which the children are enrolled. We also attend career sessions and meetings convened at the schools to discuss the individual academic development, career guidance and discipline challenges of our girls. Because we have built relationships with these schools, class teachers pay extra attention to our children. Most of the classes are large, also this ensures that our children do not fall between the cracks. We are constantly wary of the girls growing a lazy



# \$22,000

*Amount needed for School fees, scholastic necessities, accommodation costs*

# 200+

*Grace Villa girls are enrolled in Pre Primary, Primary, Secondary School, University and Vocational Training schools.*

# 100%

Students graduated  
to the next level

# 40%

Students passed  
in the top 90th  
percentile

dependency or complacent syndrome that is typical of children who receive sponsorship.

*We are grateful to the school administrations of Trinity College Kabale, Alliance High School in Nansana, and Mbarara Girls School who continue to give the girls subsidized fees structures, and patiently extend grace periods regardless of our often tardy and staggered school fees payments.*

We are glad to report that despite the constant struggle to raise school fees, we never ended any 2018 school term in debt. We managed to achieve this mighty feat because of the support we received from individual child sponsors, general donations, fundraising activities, income generating activities, scholarships and bursaries, as well as corporate responsibility donations.

The majority of our primary school children attend Kabale Primary School (fondly known as Demo), one of the pioneer community founded and government aided primary schools in Kabale town which used to be Kabale Demonstration school, where teachers in teacher training school did their practicals. The rest of the students are enrolled in Makanga Primary School, Hornby Primary School, Lower Bugongi Primary school, Amazing Love school and Peace School. Our Secondary school girls are enrolled at Trinity College Kabale, Kigezi High School, St Mary's College Rushoroza, Kabale Secondary School, Brainstorm, Creamland in Kabale, Mbarara Girls School in Mbarara, Immaculate Heart in Rukungiri, and Alliance High School in Nansana.

All Primary school students must sit for Primary Leaving (PLE) exams, while High School students sit for Advanced

Level Exams (A-Level). 100% of our students graduated to the next level of their education. 40% of our students passed their exams in the top 90th percentile.

It is important to note here that 6 girls at Creamland were recruited by the school because of their soccer talent, and receive 100% school fees bursaries.

Fourteen of our girls who are currently in Senior three and above received a fantastic opportunity: a scholarship for an online computer training course in programming and coding at UDACITY, a wellknown Information Technology School in Cambridge Massachusetts. They stay on track with the support of online instructors, peers and coaches. Courtesy of our 1st volunteer and longtime supporter of Grace Villa, Susan Smith.

One of our pioneer girls at Grace Villa, Phiona Kiconco, was admitted at the Uganda Christian University, Bishop Barham campus, for a Bachelors of Business Administration degree course also Musiimenta Doreen was admitted to Kyambogo University for a Bachelor of Arts with Education.

## Challenges

Paying school fees and providing scholastic necessities is our biggest financial challenge with an annual bill of about 22,000USD.

As the children grow up and advance to Secondary School and on to University, the school fees bill multiplies. For example, a child who advances to High school from Primary school will multiply her school fees by 8.



## 4 HealthCare

**U**pon entry, open a medical file for each child. She receives a full medical check-up at Kabale referral hospital, and from then on they receive basic medical attention and periodic checkups.

We invite medical personnel such as dentists and nurses to talk to the girls about their bodies, dental care, personal hygiene and so on. We also hold health awareness workshops and counseling sessions both for the children, and for families that have our children in their care.

In January, a Therapist from Finland, Ms Laura Toubale Keihas spent 3 productive months of Art Therapy sessions with the children.

### Highlights

- ◆ Olivia was born with a genital defect. We connected her to Mulago hospital, where they did reconstructive surgery.
- ◆ Mercy developed a goiter at the beginning of 2017. She is ongoing monitoring as they prepare her for surgery in December.
- ◆ Amanyia (10 year old) had a hernia, which was successfully operated upon.
- ◆ Monica (*not her name*), 11 year old was chronically depressed which led to weight loss and poor performance in class. After counseling it was revealed that she thought she had HIV. She was raped the year before she was brought into our home. Although we knew she was healthy we re-tested her, to reassure her. Today, she is a vibrant, happy, healthy girl who is doing well in school. This was a result of relief accompanied by mentoring, counseling and loving care.







## 5 Sports

We use sports as a vehicle to dispel society's biases against females, and provide them with the resources and a safe, nurturing environment in which to explore their own abilities. Grace Villa maintains a sports field within its walls. The pitch provides a conducive environment in which the girls explore their abilities, exercise their bodies and minds, enjoy the camaraderie of playing in a team with friends and peers and learn healthy competition and responsibility.

The girls themselves were biased against themselves, until they discovered their abilities on our private field, and as their confidence grew we started playing friendly matches and games outside our walls. They receive training in various sports and games including football, volleyball and netball. Sports has had this power to bring us together, even when we are divided. We have witnessed it change attitudes and behaviors and shift biases based on religion, tribe and social status. Sports can change hearts. Sports have a way of enabling us to escape and relax from the difficulties we faced in yester years. This is important for our children. And hence our motto: One Team. One Family. One Dream.

### We engage the girls in 4 key activities:

- Sports
- Team Building
- Civic engagement
- Workshops

Members of each team receive a tuition bursary, books, pens, pencils and sanitary pads to see them through the year. Members of the team meet every Saturday without fail, and during holidays. They are given water, glucose and a hot "Wateeka" meal after each practice.

Our efforts are paying off. Grace Villa Soccer Club has won the Kabale District Youth Football Championship cup for 3 years in a row: 2017 and 2018! Because of this, our girls confidence is growing and they are getting noticed. 5 girls at Creamland were recruited by the Creamland High School based on their soccer talent, and receive 100% school fees bursaries.





### Sponsors of Sports Equipment

- Airtel
- Soccer Without Borders
- KPMG

*“Sports can change hearts. It has a way of enabling us to escape and relax from the difficulties we faced in yester years. This is important for our children. And hence our motto: One Team. One Family. One Dream.*

We took the winning team on a celebratory road trip to Uganda's capital city, Kampala. The trip was made possible by friends of Grace Villa who raised the transportation and accommodation fare. Some of the girls had never been in a car before, let alone travel past our Kabale town line. They now got to walk on our Entebbe Airport tarmac, and touch an airplane. They visited the national newspaper offices and factory to see how newspapers are printed, and were invited into the office and for a photo op with the Managing Director Mr Kabushenga himself. They toured the Parliament, visited the zoo, a beach and a modern mall. The trip was crowned with a training session by

professional coaches and a friendly match with Proline Sports Academy at Lugogo Stadium, hosted by Mr Mujib Kasule, founder of the academy.

Our plan is to build a formidable team that will grow to participate in national, regional and even international tournaments using the team as vehicle through which to create exciting opportunities for our team members, as well as mobilize resources to sustain our Grace Villa programs.

We believe that we can ride on the success of our team to mobilize the community and champion community service programs such as sanitation, immunization, and blood donation drives.



## 6 Skills building

**E**very Saturday and during holidays, the Grace Villa front porch is transformed into a tailoring and crafts center.

In a country like Uganda where there is massive graduate unemployment, the need to have practical skills cannot be emphasized enough. The girls are engaged and actively participate in a number of vocational projects, and the products are consumed at home, sold to meet local demand, and are even sold abroad. All the girls, irrespective of age, are mobilized to participate in a variety of vocational activities.

The integration of skills development programs at Grace Villa was also driven by the need to create a sustainability and income generation aspect into the running of the project affairs. It fast became apparent that Grace Villa could not exist in the capacity we wished by simply fundraising.

Another wonderful side effect of our skills development programs is, the girls are empowered by the knowledge that they contribute to paying part of their own school fees!

The following are enterprises that have been borne out of skilling the girls

### \* The Kikazi Tailoring Project

When we found it expensive to dress and buy uniforms for our 100 plus children, we brought in a tailor to teach the girls how to make our own. This took on a life of its own and has grown into a fullfledged profit making clothing and accessory line called Kikazi. Kikazi is now a part of the growing fashion industry in Uganda. Kikazi is currently Grace Villa's most successful income generating project.

The girls make beautiful, unique pieces with a touch of African kitenge cloth print. Examples are laptop bags, table mats, jewelry, sandals, we cover pillows and even chairs, design clothes. We do not want people to buy things just because vulnerable children made them. So we stress quality and creativity. As a result, our product is beautifully made, stylish and sought after.



In addition, the girls make their own uniforms and clothes, bed sheets and bed covers, pillows and accessories for our home, as well as reusable sanitary pads.

Kikazi tailoring project runs on eight sewing machines and a variety of tailoring equipment and furniture.

### Mat Making

Production and marketing of mats made out of local material like reeds. Mats are popular in homes, for beach outings, picnics and outdoor events. We are happy to see this age old tradition being passed down to our girls by the lovely, patient Teacher Mary. The girls collect the reeds and leaves, dry them, then weave them into various designs and sizes. As of the end of 2018, the production capacity was one mat per week. We plan to step up production this year, as well as create new designs like Yoga mats.

### Sponsors

All the equipment was donated by Airtel Uganda to the project in 2017. Airtel was brought to our home by our supporter Canon Bruce Kyerere.





## Baking

Grace Villa received a generous donation of a commercial coal/wood burning oven from Airtel Uganda. We were already baking, having been taught by volunteer Priscilla Mugerwa of Cilla's Oven in Kampala. She spent a little over a week with the girls imparting baking skills. The new oven stepped it up from home consumption to commercial status. Today, the girls bake cakes and cookies that are sold at Kwanzi. Production is up to 200 cookies and 5 assorted cakes per week.



## Gardening / Agriculture

The girls grow sweet potatoes, irish potatoes, beans, maize, cabbage, egg plants, avocado, guava, vegetables and herbs. Most of the peripheral spaces in the compound and sports field have also been harnessed as vegetable, herb and fruit gardens. These are now reliable sources of food for the girls. We sometimes even have extra harvest that we either sell or give away to someone less fortunate.



## Music, Dance & Drama

We are steadily developing the talents of our girls so that in future they can also eke out a living through these performing arts. Throughout 2018 the girls in our care, protection and providence worked hard to hone their skills. They are now proficient in most of the traditional dances of the region.

As a result, we received several exciting invitations for the girls to perform at events through the year. One of these was an invitation to perform on the Milege World Music Stage in Entebbe. They performed so well that one of the attendees sponsored a recording session for them at the National Theater in Kampala! So the following week, the girls traveled for a recording session with one of Uganda's top producers, of our 3 beautiful songs "Kangyerengyere", "Emicwe" and "Ziririre". All 3 songs are based on folk tales, creatively evoking nostalgia among the old, while intriguing the young listener. A beautiful way of preserving our heritage.





# Kwanzi

• • • • •

*The purpose of opening Kwanzi was to directly benefit Grace Villa as an income generating project, as well as to benefit the community.*

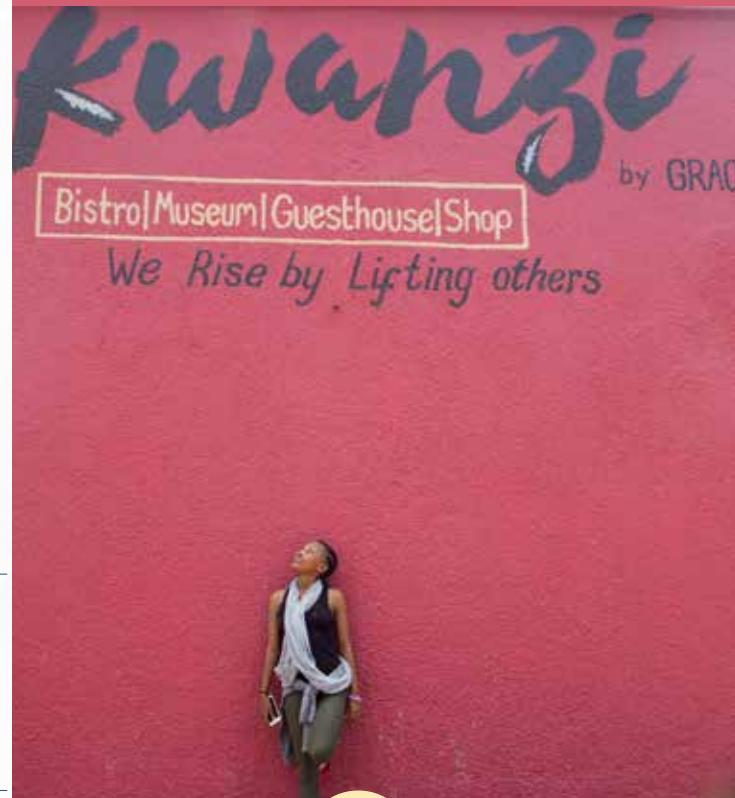
## Income Generation

Every purchase made at Kwanzi goes towards sustaining Grace Villa and its different programs. Whether it be a meal, a room reservation, a museum tour or a purchase from the Kikazi shop.

## Community Service

Spaces are availed for workshops, clubs, trainings and community meetings. If vulnerability and financial duress are proven, Kwanzi offers these amenities for free.

An example is what happens every Friday evening at 5:00pm. One of the rooms turns into a sewing space where we make reusable sanitary pads that are then issued to vulnerable girls who cannot afford the average 4,000/= pack. The Kabale community is welcome to give a hand, and they do!



## KWANZI Location



- It is located at the confluence of Nyerere Avenue and Kaita Road in the heart of Kabale town, just a few minutes walk from where Grace Villa is located. Right at the gateway to Bwindi forest, several National Parks, to the stunning legendary lake Bunyonyi and the borders to Rwanda and Congo



addition of tasty local food, drinks and muchomo (roast meat) to the menu has made Kwanzi a popular spot for locals too.

The Bakiga Cultural Museum is carefully curated by one of Kabale's most decorated historians, Omugurisa Karwemera. Museum Mission: To exhibit, document, protect and preserve the unique yet fading history of the Bakiga, and in doing so – Uganda. Step back in time through a recreation of a traditional homestead, complete with a fully furnished hut, and a granary in the 'compound'. The experience immerses its guests in life as it was in the days of our ancestors. The homestead has a wide range of both every day and rare artifacts, musical instruments, tools, weapons and more. We are very proud to be the proprietors of this cultural gem and especially love how Kwanzi museum has become a popular school field trip destination. We receive an average of 20 museum guests per week, with the majority being students.

The Grace Villa girls work here during their holidays, learning entrepreneurial and hospitality skills.

In January 2016, a unique sustainable development opportunity presented itself to Grace Villa.

Acquisition of a guesthouse in Kabale, South Western Uganda. Kwanzi has since developed into a wonderful concept with a café, a museum, book exchange, gift shop (an outlet for the things that the Grace Villa girls make) and accommodation all under one roof. It is located at the confluence of Nyerere Avenue and Kaita Road in the heart of Kabale town, just a few minutes walk from where Grace Villa is located. Because it is located at the gateway to Bwindi forest, several National Parks, to the stunning legendary lake Bunyonyi and the borders to Rwanda and Congo, Kwanzi is a popular stop over for tourists. A recent



## 7

## Advocacy, Networking & Lobbying

**W**e do all in our power to promote and protect girl and women rights. Although Uganda has a comprehensive legal and policy framework to address violence against women and children, there are noticeable gaps in the implementation and enforcement. Violence against Women and children (VAW/C) remains high with more than 22% above 15 being sexually violated, and 51% physically assaulted. Sadly, we see these statistics come to life with the children that are brought to Grace Villa.

While investing in girls is growing, there remains a wide gap between what is promised and what is actually achieved. Key to the success of our programs is establishing effective referral links to other OVC service providers to ensure that our children and our extended families have access to basic needs for survival including protection, food, shelter and health care.

We document and disseminate our approaches that have been successful, and our best practices, and lessons learned along the way.

Through the year, Grace Villa has continued to mobilize and support community-based responses which identify and protect OVC's in addition to providing both immediate and long term therapeutic care and nurture.

We find ourselves advocating for the community as well. Here are a few incidences.

### Doreen's Brother

The older brother of one of our Grace Villa children Doreen was a truck mechanic. One evening as he was working under a truck, it fell on him and injured his spinal cord. He needed emergency transportation to Mulago Hospital in Kampala, which was the only facility that could help. Every minute that

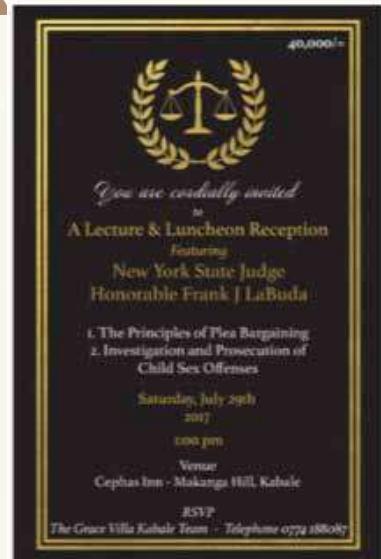
passed mattered, as his spinal cord had to be decompressed as soon as possible.

The hospital would not transport him without transportation money for the ambulance. The family had given up, then Doreen called Ruth at 11pm and sobbed the story to her. Grace Villa intervened. They announced to us that even if we paid for fuel, it was night time so there was no staff present to drive him, and no doctor on duty to escort him so it was a helpless case. We called the Minister of Health. He called the Hospital Superintendent, who ordered that an ambulance be prepared to immediately transport the young man. He received surgery a few hours later, was in a wheel chair for a while, and is now progressing to using a walking stick. Most importantly, his life was saved.

### Faith's Mother

Faith, one of our external Grace Villa children, lives with her sick, very old grandmother because her mother married a man who would not let her bring a child who wasn't his into their new home. One afternoon while Faith was playing soccer in our field, children from the community came running in through the gate saying her mother was laying in the road not too far from our home, in a pool of blood. We rushed to the scene and carried her to the hospital which was close by. She had collapsed while trying to drag herself to the hospital.

Her husband had come home drunk the night before. She was cooking and asked him if he had remembered to bring salt. He beat her severely, and when she was fell to the ground he jumped on her stomach, causing her spleen to erupt. We intervened both on the medical side, facilitating an operation, and legally in trying to get the police to intervene. This was a slow process, with us having to push and then facilitate multiple police visits to the hospital.



Even the hospital counselor asked for facilitation to follow up on the case, which he said would eventually go to court. Sadly, Faiths mother died a few days later from post-surgery complications. The step-father showed up at the funeral and was applauded. We went to the police station every day, and each time we had to buy the paper on which to write the report, and pay a taxi to transport the police officer to the various scenes. At one point, a large group of Faiths step fathers friends and relatives stormed the Grace Villa compound to demand that we stop involving the police. We remained relentless, until he was finally arrested.

Too often, reports of abuse fall on complacent ears even at police stations. They demand facilitation fees which these children and their guardians cannot afford. Some police are corrupt, and accept bribes from the accused. Conversations with police reveal that some of them actually do not know what procedure to follow. Last year, we received an email from a young teacher in New York, who wished to volunteer at Grace Villa. She asked if she could bring her father along. Her father turned out to be New York State Judge and Surrogate of Sullivan County Courthouse of Monticello, New York: Honorable Frank J. LaBuda. In light of what we had been going through in regards to child sex offenses, were thrilled!

To best benefit from this unique resource within our small town, we asked, and he accepted to spend most of the day meeting with and sharing the wealth of wisdom and experience he gathered over the last four decades in judicial and legal service.

### Lecture Topics

- The Principles of Plea Bargaining
- Investigation and Prosecution of Child Sex Offenses

The event, held at Cephas Inn Kabale, was well attended and well received by the community with an attendance of over 200. Hosted by Kabale District High Court Judge Hon Moses Kawumi Kazibwe.

State Attorneys and other members of our legal fraternity, law enforcement, probation officers, Community Development officers and other stakeholders, the press, teachers and clergy were all in attendance.



## 8 Counseling

**E**very single one of our children has a varying degree of past trauma. It is imperative that we provide group and individual counseling, mentoring and sensitization sessions for them. We also provide the same for the guardians and families of the children who do not live with us.

We do quarterly home visits to assess the environments in which our children live with "Grace Villa Extended Families". We use these opportunities to interact in a friendly basis with guardians and the other children in the household. We discuss behavioral issues, and come up with study plans together, which is important. Many guardians think that children who study after school are bragging or wasting time and precious fuel (candles, paraffin, fire wood). We discuss why it is important and come up with fair time tables. While doing this, we are also indirectly advocating for the other children in the home. We find ourselves also intervening medically in cases such as contagious skin diseases. Whenever we receive bulk food donations, extra mattresses, solar lamps, soap, etc we share these with our extended families.

We also counsel the extended families on best safety practices for girls. Things like fetching water unaccompanied and at odd hours, and hawking food which requires the adolescent to travel unaccompanied across the community with produce on her head exposes girls to "suitors" with bad intentions. It exasperates early marriages, unintended pregnancies and even sexual abuse.

One solution would be to create programs that provide seed money or microfinancing to help families start a safer business such as a small shop that does not require unsafe practices. We applied for a grant that will teach the girls and extended families how to construct ferro-cement water tanks. These will improve water availability for the families, will reduce having to send girls to fetch water from distant water sources, and will also be a source of income for the families as they will now have a marketable skill.







## 9 Sustainability

**C**reatively coming up with ways to raise resources to run and effectively implement our GV programs, - from fundraisers to events.

### Grace Villa Fundraising Expeditions

For 3 years now, Grace Villa has taken adventurous groups on unforgettable bucket-list type expeditions, bringing people together for a good cause as they discover the most exotic, under explored corners of Uganda. The annual fundraising events symbolize and raise awareness for the challenges that marginalized girls "climb" and struggle through each day. But then they Rise by Lifting Others as our motivational phrase. So far we have done three expeditions i.e Muhabura Mountain Climb, Kidepo National Park and Bwindi Impenetrable forest the home of the Mountain Gorillas.

The events usually launch with a Press Conference at the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB). Last year the press conferences was attended by the Chief Executive officer of UTB, Mr Stephen Asiimwe, the Business Development Manager of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) Steven Masaba, the Senior Marketing Officer of UTB Sylvia Kalemba, Grace Villa's Ruth Ndyabahika and representatives from all major media houses in Uganda.

#### Sponsors

Bank of Uganda

AIRTEL Uganda

#### Partners

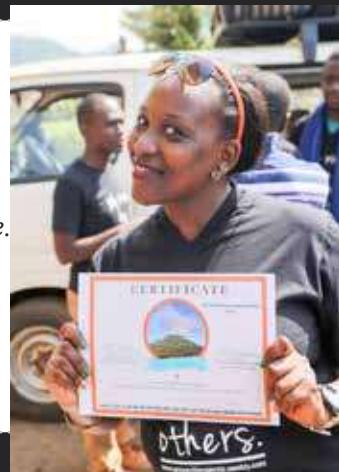
Uganda Tourism Board (UTB),  
Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA),  
CUT Safaris,  
Volcanoes Safaris







*Grace Villa has made a mark on Uganda's tourism industry as THE domestic tourism adventure for a good cause. Each adventure symbolizes and raises awareness for the 'mountains' and hardships that marginalized girls climb every day, as Grace Villa's girls did before they found a home. Today, the #4GraceVilla family has grown to a combined membership of 115 adventurers. The passion for the cause moves them. As does the age-old thrilling romance of exploring the wildest parts of Africa.*



## #CLIMBMUHAVURA4GRACEVILLA

**B**efore sunset on June 4th 2016, an eclectic group of 50 nervous yet excited adventurers converged in Kampala - the Capitol of Uganda, and embarked on the road trip of a lifetime. They were athletes, non athletes, professionals, socialites, perfect strangers, friends, journalists, work colleagues, thrill seekers and more. Most had never been to Western Uganda before, so the itinerary included all the essential stops. A photo-op at the equator, a muchomo and gonja stop in Lukaya, a quick stop in Muhanga for coffee and to admire sculptures such as Kabale's version of Norway's "The Monolith" at Great Lakes Museum. Later that evening the group reached Kabale town, where Grace Villa is located. They drove up Makanga Hill to the Grace Villa home, and were welcomed by a spectacular cultural performance, a home tour and a special meal that was prepared by the girls themselves.

It was hard to leave, but eventually the travelers tore themselves away from the home with promises to return, and continued on to the final destination: Kisoro. They settled in for the night at "Volcanoes Mount Gahinga Lodge", a rustic luxury lodge nestled at the base of the Virunga Volcanoes. This beautiful luxury lodge was the official hotel of the climb, and had generously slashed its prices from \$550 to \$50 per night, in support of Grace Villa!

The mountain from which the climb derived its name is one of the mythical peaks that make up the Virunga Ranges mentioned in the book "Gorillas In The Mist" by the legendary Dian Fossey. The next morning as we drove along the bumpy road towards the starting point of the climb, we saw it. 4,127 meters high. Our mountain - silhouetted in the dawn light, a looming figure that dwarfed even the other mountains around it. The chatter in the buses subsided for a bit as we approached the intimidating sight.

Activities started off with a yoga session in the grass beneath the mountain led by Kabale yoga master Alex, a quick pep talk from UWA, another by the organizer, an official flag off by special guest Professor Charles Kwesiga, and a fervent prayer by brother Bless. Then we were off. Each one armed with a bamboo stick given to us by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) guides, the group was charged with excited anticipation and adrenaline, practically skipping through the meadow and over the rugged rock buffalo wall that separates the protected forest from the gardens of local farmers. We even had accompanying beats, as one climber came armed with a boom box! The vegetation on this mountain is spectacular, each section uniquely different like turning the pages of an exotic travel magazine. Lush rainforest gives way to bare mangled trees, then dessert-like terrain, meadows scattered with large volcanic rocks, and sections with plant life that looks



like it belongs on the moon. The energy with which the trek began dwindled fast. Excited conversation turned into grunts and groans, then silence. Colleagues started falling behind, while others gave up and turned back. The music eventually stopped. I remember walking past the DJ laying on one of the volcanic rocks, fast asleep, head covered with his jacket. We rested, but were cautioned not to stop for too long else our muscles would stiffen. Below, the view was one of the things that kept us going. The winding Lake Kivu, the villages that looked like toy houses, the thick Bwindi forest tree canopy below. Eventually, we were actually above the puffy clouds, and then above neighboring volcanos Mgahinga and Sabinyo! Total exhaustion kicked in. My legs started to feel like spaghetti. I would beg my guide Mark (who by that point had become my best friend on earth) to let me rest for a bit. I would then get up with renewed energy, start walking, only to sink to the ground again after 5 steps. I panicked at one point and asked myself, "what the heck made you think you're a mountain climber, Ruth? What happens if you collapse?" I learnt later that this strange lack of energy was an effect of the quick change in altitude. Some annoying members of our group had no trouble at all with the climb, prancing up to the peak, posing in triumph with our Grace Villa banner next to the crater lake at the top, then racing past us on the

way back down, gleefully jumping over tree trunks and rocks. The trek back down for us mere mortals was the worst. At this point you are exhausted, and everything aches. You are now using muscles that you rarely use, and putting heavy strain on your knees and ankles. At one point i gave up on walking and decided to sit and basically inelegantly slide down the mountain.

After falling, crying and suffering together, a special bond is inevitably formed amongst former strangers. Darkness fell while we were still in the forest with hours to go. We attempted to distract each other with stories, the strong held the weak, and when one group of lovely ladies came crashing through the forest swearing that they had seen a leopards eyes in the dark, we all crowded closer and walked as a group. UWA rangers were always close by, as was my guide Mark, which was a great comfort. Finally, we made it to the bottom and used our last reserves of energy to climb into the vans awaiting us. It was after 10pm. The night ended at our Gahinga Lodge with muchomo (skewers of grilled meat), cold drinks, music under the stars brought all the way from Kabale by "Mist", and a bonfire. The realization of our accomplishment slowly sank in as energy started to seep back into our bodies. We had actually climbed a real mountain!



still don't know what it is about mountains that is so addictive that it makes one forget the agony and long for another one. Due to insistent demand from our group for the next adventure, we made a brazen decision. We chose one of the most extraordinary, epic African safari experiences one could ever have: 4 days and 3 nights in one of Uganda's best kept secrets: the ends of the wild savannah's of Kidepo Valley, to climb Mount Morungole.

On Valentines Day 2017, Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) heralded the expedition with a press conference, and the next day we were off to Kidepo. "Possibly the most picturesque park in Africa." CNN Travel called it. We agree. When the sun reaches its peak in this land, there is a clarity to the light that makes it possible to see over great distances, and in incredible detail. Sometimes we would stop just to gaze in silent awe at what lay around us. A dreamy haze of sunlight and sand, a sort of beige color scheme of unspoiled vast savannah wilderness and rolling foothills leading to magnificent mountain ranges etched on the horizon. The wild grass of the plains scattered with acacia trees and boreholes where animals hide from the scorching sun, and from curious humans like ourselves.

We climbed Morungole on the February 16th, bearing sacks and boxes full of items for the marginalized Ik tribe that lives at the peak. The 2,749 meters above sea level hike which was underestimated by most at first, turned out not to be for the faint hearted. But driven by the anticipation of meeting one of the most endangered tribes in Africa, we struggled up. We crossed over breathtaking landscapes, and would turn back to gasp at the scenery in the valleys below that got more and more striking the higher we climbed. The Ik came to literary fame in the 1972 book "The Mountain People" by anthropologist Colin Turnbull. In it, they come across as a people who do not love. He must have gotten it wrong. They received us with so much joy and dancing, and we responded with an unrehearsed but passionate rendition of our own Kiga dance. We almost left one of our girls atop the mountain, with the Chief who passionately proposed! She would now be a queen. Most likely one of his many as theirs is a polygamous society, but a queen non the less. Later that night back at the campsite, as we relaxed and nursed our sore exhausted bodies around the campfire waiting for a much deserved dinner, our time spent with the Ik was a main thread of conversation. They



# #KIDEPO4GRACEVIL



will remain etched in our minds and hearts for ever. And who knows. Gathering from some of the ideas brewed around our campfire that night, some more good may come of our visit.

On day 3, the few early risers had breakfast sitting high up on Lions Rock, watching the sunrise over the Morungole mountain that we had conquered the day before. Our adventure today was all about the magnificent vast plains of the Narus valley.



LA

We piled into two 4x4 coasters, armed with lots of water, snacks, binoculars, cameras and 2 passionate game rangers. The valley was rich with wild life that seemed to come out to meet us. Huge herd of buffalo, and zebra's swinging their chubby hips. Lions, elephant, giraffe, ostriches, eland kept unfolding in front of us. A group in one of the 4x4's swore that they saw the elusive cheetah. And the awkward Jackson Hartebeests posturing on anthills, in a macho territorial display. Which that afternoon we spread a picnic lunch over the hot sands of the seasonally dried up Kidepo River itself, surrounded by soaring Borassus palm trees which elephants "planted" over time and thus marked their migration path. We took off our shoes and played in the sand, some taking turns to jump from fallen tree stump spring boards into the river of sand below. We danced, did cartwheels, ate & danced. While others simply sat together in silence, listening to the breeze in the Borassus trees, awed by the unexpected wild beauty of this new place. Later that night, we sat around the campfire under the spectacular starry skies one last time. There was a nostalgic sadness in the air. Nobody wanted to go to bed. Because this would mean that the beautiful, once in a lifetime Kidepo story had actually come to an end.





# #BWINDI4GRACEVILLA

The 3rd annual celebration of love, nature and wild places was set against the majestic backdrop of a place so exotic that CNN dubbed it "One of the 5 Best Parks in Africa". The ancient Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Home of the glorious silverback mountain gorilla.

This adventure was a particularly intense one, unfolding wondrously deep into the most mountainous of rainforests. Guided by Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) knowledgeable rangers, we trekked – and sometimes even slashed through the forest, brushing against majestic 100+ year old pre historic mahogany trees and other rare fauna. Bwindi is home to 120 species of mammals (from gorillas and baboons to forest elephants), 348 species of birds, 220 species of butterflies, & much more. In here lived the First People of the forest: the Batwa pygmies who gathered and hunted here for over 500,000 years in harmony with their beloved forest and wildlife, leaving barely an ecological footprint behind them.

It was grueling steep climbing most of the way, rewarded by fascinating sights & refreshing moments like a beautiful series of waterfalls which were a favorite for most, offering cool relief for the hot, exhausted trekkers. Some gleefully dove into each one, while others opted to simply climb close enough to cool their faces in the mist. A picturesque river junction was the perfect spot for a quick picnic lunch, probably in the very same spot that a mountain gorilla took a sip a few hours before! And then we journeyed on, uphill all the way. Roughly 9 hours later, we emerged on the other end of the forest at Nkuringo, muddy and so exhausted that most could barely put one foot in front of the other, and stumbled gratefully into our coaster which we found waiting for us. It took us to our home for that night: Rushaga Gorilla Camp.

As the group decompressed around a camp fire at this beautiful location, an amazing feeling of exhilaration & accomplishment swept through them.





We had actually slashed through an impenetrable forest, ALL the way from Buhoma to Kisoro, experienced all its wonders, & emerged victorious on the other end! It was Grace Villa's toughest adventure to date. Day 3 started before day break for the adventurers who chose to add tracking mountain gorillas to their package. After a briefing on the rules like making sure they maintained a distance of 7m (about 22 feet) from the gorillas to minimize possible transmission of human diseases, they went back into the dense Bwindi forest with a trained tracker. Only eight visitors are allowed per gorilla group each day. They returned to the hotel 7 hours later with looks of awe and glee on their faces, and photographs to prove that they had actually had the surreal, magical experience of encountering an entire mountain gorilla family.

We said goodbye to our forest home, and went on to the next location: Lake Bunyonyi where we found a dinner set, overlooking the 28 islands that make up this lake which is arguably the second deepest in Africa. That night, we lounged on strewn mattresses and pillows, as the movie "Black Panther" was projected on a large sheet. This had to be done, as this was the physical location at which the Marvel blockbuster shot its Wakanda scenes.

We woke up to beautiful birdsong, synonymous with its name "Bunyonyi", which translates as "little birds". We went on to have breakfast and a museum tour at Kwanzi, Grace Villa's bistro/museum in Kabale town. After a quick stop at Grace Villa the home to say hallo and goodbye to the children, the farewell chapter of ##Bwindi4GraceVilla began as the team which had now turned into family boarded the buses for their trip back to Kampala.



## More Grace Villa Highlights

### An invitation to Voice of America's "Straight Talk Africa"

Ruth was invited as a guest on this prestigious show, hosted by Ndugu Shaka Ssali.

**Topic:** Women transforming the lives of children



Ruth share a moment with VOA's Shaka Ssali (*middle*) and Apollo Ndyabahika after show

## Grace Villa selected by the European Union to receive the equipment used during elections by the EU Election Observers

The function was held at Kampala Serena Hotel. In the words of His Excellency Ambassador Kristian Schmidt, the European Union Head of Delegation to Uganda:

*“Democracy is not a one day event. What happens between elections is just as important. It is therefore fitting that the equipment of the EU Election Observers is now donated to benefit the roots of democracy in Uganda. Particularly fitting that today we donate this equipment to organizations representing groups and people that often struggle to get their voices heard, but do wonderful work in defending minorities, human rights and vulnerable groups”.*



Ruth receives the items from the Ambassador.



The items in use at the Grace Villa home



# Invitation to State House to meet the President

As a result of Judge LaBuda's visit to Grace Villa and the ensuing workshops, representatives of Grace Villa were invited to meet:

*The Kabale Resident Judge - Justice Moses Kazibwe*

*The Minister of Trade and Investment - Hon Amelia Kyambadde*

*The Prime Minister of Uganda - Dr Ruhakana Rugunda*

*The Director of Public Prosecutions - Justice Mike J Chibita*

*The office of the Chief Justice of Uganda - Hon. Justice Bart Katureebe*

This all culminated in a visit to the Uganda State House in Entebbe to meet the President of Uganda HE Yoweri Kaguta Museveni! The girls made their best set of Kikazi tablemats, which Ruth handed to the President. He admired them, and assured her that he would immediately put them to use.



WORKSHOP ON THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD SEX OFFENSES AND ELECTRONICALLY  
STORED INFORMATION AS EVIDENCE  
HELD 02-08-2017 @HOTEL AFRICANA KAMPALA UGANDA



# Visit to the United Nations

The CEO Ruth Bahika was invited by Uganda's Permanent Mission to the UN at Uganda House - to present on the topic "Moving Back to Africa: why or why not" from the Grace Villa story perspective. Organized by Breaking Barriers.



## Lecture at Harvard University in the USA

The CEO Ruth Bahika was invited by Harvard University to talk about the politics of orphans in the third world countries



Sponsored by WED, African Studies, Tufts University, and the O'Dowd Center



**Selfie Time:** Visitors at Grace Villas

# Grace Villa Monthly Budget

Item	Cost (UGX)
<b>1. Home</b>	
Rent	1,000,000
Electricity	200,000
Water	120,000
Gas	60,000
Charcoal	60,000
Firewood	30,000
Maintainance	50,000
Phones	100,000
Internet	120,000
Occasional Cable Tv	30,000
Miscellaneous	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,870,000</b>

Item	Cost (UGX)
<b>3. Activities</b>	
Sports (Soccer, Netball, etc)	250,000
Kikazi (Tailoring, Mat weaving, etc)	540,000
Computer Classes	50,000
Clubs (Debate, culture, Scripture, Girl Power)	100,000
Wateeka Free Lunch (60 kids)	1,788,000
Workshops, Outreaches, Trainings	180,000
Fundraisers	450,000
Field trips (e.g Choir performances, friendly matches, debate club, parks)	80,000
Celebrations (Christmas, Easter, quetary birthdays)	130,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,568,000</b>

2. Well-being	
Food	600,000
Personal Hygiene	200,000
Clothes, Shoes, Slippers	130,000
Salaries	1,070,000
Medical	200,000
Church	150,000
Transportation	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,450,000</b>

4. Education	
School Fees	7,470,833
After school tutoring ( 60 primary Kids)	1,500,000
Stationary	575,000
School Uniforms & Shoes	852,000
School Lunch	1,000,000
Field Trips	112,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,893,916</b>

**Overall monthly total cost 19,871,916**





## Grace Villa Staff

### The backbone of Grace Villa.

Raising, nurturing, educating and counseling the children, as well as providing administrative and operational support. Despite the hard economic times under which we operate, their commitment to our vision remains strong.

Immaculate Niwagaba	Project Manager
Sister Phionah	Assistant Matron
Sister Doreen	Assistant Matron
Coach Martin	Sports Coordinator

Afande Loyce	Security
Teacher Vian	Tailoring
Cook Phionah	Wateeka Cook
Teacher Mary	Mat Making



# Board of Directors

Our heartfelt thanks go out to our Board members for their diligent guidance & service

## **Rev. Canon Grace Nyonyozi Ndyabahika Chairperson**

Rev. Canon Grace Ndyabahika, (wife to the late Rev Canon Professor James F. Ndyabahika) is a renown theologian, preacher, teacher, Women's Liberation Theologian, Church Priest and Counselor, wife and mother of three (3). She holds a Master of Arts (MA) - Pastoral Theology & Liberation Ethics from Episcopal Divinity College in Cambridge, Massachusetts and her areas of specialization are Pastoral Theology, Liberation Ethics and Counseling.

Apart from her pastoral work, she has always been passionate about charity work and improving lives of people in the community she serves in. She has served on many boards including serving on the National Committee for the famous Uganda Women's Effort to Save Orphans (UWESO).



## **Mr. Sam Arinaitwe Secretary**

Sam Arinaitwe is the current Chairman of Kabale Municipal Council - Central Division (LC3). Before this he was elected as Kabale district youth Chairman, popular for his relentless advocacy for jobs and opportunity for youth. During this period, he joined Grace Villa as the Project Manager, where he served for 3 years.

He holds a degree in Social Work and Social Administration from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, and is married to Doreen Arinaitwe.



## **Peter Paul Odeke Treasurer**

Peter is currently serving as Senior Public Affairs Officer in the Parliament of Uganda. He has more than 10 years experience in Parliamentary and Government Protocol and is currently a member of the National Organising Committee (NOC) of Government, which plans for all events of a national character.

Peter is a Graduate of Political Science and German language from Makerere University and is currently pursuing a Masters in Public Administration and Management at Uganda Management Institute (UMI)

He is a Christian and is married with three sons.



## **Hon Miria R. K Matembe Board Member**

Hon Miria R. K Matembe, LL.D (Honoris causa). Honorary Doctor of Laws (LL.D) from University of Victoria, 2007

Dr Miria Matembe is one of, if not the strongest voice, proponent and advocate of women's rights in Uganda. As a child, her dream was to be a lawyer to plead and work for women. After she achieved this, her dream was to get into Parliament and change the Law for better equality for women.

For over two decades, she was a member of Uganda's parliament. She worked in the Ugandan government as Minister for Ethics and Integrity from 1998 to 2003, after which she became a member of the Pan-African Parliament representing Uganda. In 1990, she was the deputy general of the Pan-African Congress.

She is born again, and is married to Mr Nekemia Matembe. Together, they are proud parents of 4 sons and 4 daughters in love, and lots of grandchildren.



## **Mrs Jocelyn Rugunda**

*Board Member*

Mrs Rugunda is the wife to Uganda's prime minister RT Hon Dr Ruhakana Rugunda and together they have four sons.

Passionate about humanitarian work, she is a patron to Faces of Children with Leukemia, an NGO dedicated to the mobilization of resources and care for children suffering from this form of cancer. She is also passionate about women and health and she was pivotal in the mobilization of resources for the purchase of a mobile mammography machine unit for the Uganda Cancer Institute. The machine will help bring more screening services to women in villages who might not be able to walk long distances to referral hospitals for screening. She is also the patron of Kabale Women Savings and Credit Organization (SACCO), and is an avid farmer.



## **Hon. Ninsiima Rona Rita**

*Board Member*

Hon Ninsiima is the former women member of parliament for Kabale District. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Development Studies from Makerere University and a Diploma in Business Management from International Professions Academy.

Prior to joining Parliament, Hon. Ninsiima served as a News Anchor for Voice of Kigezi and for Radio West where she distinguished herself as an avid campaigner against child abuse, domestic violence and household poverty.

She has a passion for helping disadvantaged people, having been born and raised with a humble background. While in Parliament, Hon. Ninsiima championed maternal health and the continuous education for the girl child.



## **Prince Hassan Kimbugwe**

*Board Member*

A highly respected influential Prince from the Buganda Monarchy, brings unrivalled contacts and influence at the highest levels in the Private Sector and Government. He has initiated and enabled several large investments in various sectors that include Telecoms, Oil & Gas, Real Estate, Agriculture and Renewable Energy into Uganda. He is known for his tenacity in ensuring that complex investments, often in partnership with Government, come to realisation while adhere to the highest standards of international best practice. He calls upon his extensive knowledge of various nuances of African culture and business to successfully manage challenging negotiations in various sectors with Government and the Private sector.

Prince Kimbugwe is an avid lover of the African Arts.



## **Ruth K. Ndyabahika**

*CEO*

Ruth Ndyabahika is a Ugandan - American Child Psychologist. She uses her platform to advocate and lobby for the rights of marginalized children and the development of her country Uganda. A graduate of Northeastern University and Wheelock College respectively, she began her career in Boston, MA..

Recognized for her philanthropic and lobbying efforts by The Jane Goodall Institute, OXFAM International, the Diamond Awards, Rotary International, Lions Club International, the Ugandan Diaspora Award for Philanthropy, she has received invitations to Harvard University, Williams College and Voice of America's Straight Talk Africa to speak about her journey, and even received a letter of commendation from Senator Edward Kennedy.

Today she lives in the hills of Kabale at Grace Villa sanctuary with the children she serves.





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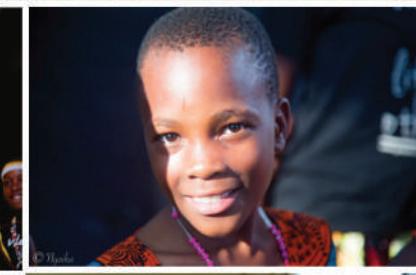
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We Rise  
by  
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