



FEED, HEAL, & EDUCATE CHILDREN IN SLUMS OF KAMPALA, UGANDA And SPONSOR NEEDY CHILDREN

Dr. Ani Kalayjian

I am sure you have heard that it takes a village to raise a child. Will you be part of our village to help these children in the slums of Uganda? Moved by these children, we formed a partnership between MeaningfulWorld (Dr. Ani Kalayjian) from USA and Hope Renewed Namuwongo (Jacob Bole) from Uganda.

The purpose of this partnership is to educate, heal, and feed the children in the slums of Kampala, to transform their poverty into empowerment and purposeful positive action, and to make a difference in their lives and the lives of the next generations. We address the United Nations SDG #2 Zero Hunger, SDG #3 Good health & wellbeing and #4 Quality Education,

We began our feeding **program on 6 August 2024** in the slum area in Kampala, Namuwongo. MeaningfulWorld volunteered in this slum area in June-July 2024 while on a Humanitarian Relief Mission addressing mental health needs, EI, & nurturing peace in several cities in Uganda.

This program combines feeding with health assessment, special lessons on hygiene, environmental cleanliness, empathy, sports, as well as emotional management. Emotional intelligence, EI is emphasized, including empathy, empathic listening, respect for self and others, self-care, gratitude, compassion, and love. Empathic listening included 7 steps: listen with our hearts, listen with love, listen with our mind, listen with care, observe the body, listen with passion to understand, listen with intention, and listen with prayers. Our volunteer team evaluates their findings and observations and shares their observations with the rest of the team during our weekly meetings prior to feedings.

Although at first our goal was to feed 50 children (due to financial constraints), but the number of children grew from 50 to 99 in several weeks, as the children brought their siblings, friends, and neighbors to enjoy a healthy cereal with milk, and bananas. From 6 August 2024 to 30 November 2025 we fed, healed, and taught over 4,300+ children.

In addition to the feeding, healing & educating children, MeaningfulWorld has also been sponsoring 4 girls who are either orphans, or in extreme poverty. Joan Nakagwa (11 yrs), Destiney Katushabe (13 yrs), Celestine Adkini (12), and Pretty Sumaya Namayanda (8).



Joan



Destiney



Celestine



Pretty

Future Directions:

1. **Expand volunteer recruitment efforts:** Actively seek additional volunteers to support the growing number of children. We have reached out to the psychology students at KIU.
2. **Increase the program awareness and donations:** We are posting program activities on social media platforms to attract more donors and volunteers for the program's sustainability. We plan to outreach to local stakeholders.
3. **Increase medical/nursing volunteers:** We have outreached to nearby medical and health facilities. Infections are rampant in an area where water is contaminated and filtered water is not accessible, or too expensive. Therefore, most children & adults are dehydrated.

Currently, MeaningfulWorld has been the fiscal sponsor providing the funding for this project.

Special gratitude to: Jacob Bole, Mackline Atwine, Gaston Lambo, Litojohn Katatunga, & Edmond Matthew Massa.



Children in the slums are enjoying healthy cereal and bananas

MeaningfulWorld cannot sustain this without the active outreach of the local team and your generous tax-deductible support. <https://meaningfulworld.com/get-involved/donation>



A little food, love, and compassion put big smiles on these children's beautiful faces.