

Quarterly Newsletter Issue 2 September 2020

Reaching Beyond Globally Offers Access to Education. Education Offers Independence.

Reaching Beyond Globally students respond to COVID-19:

These past few months have been trying for everyone, and especially hard for the students of Reaching Beyond Globally. COVID-19 has effected everyone, and we are all adjusting to our new "normal". To curb the spread of the deadly virus in Uganda, President Museveni closed all schools starting March 25, 2020, and banned travel in and out of the country. The students had to immediately leave their Secondary Schools and return to home. The ban on travel prevented Vicki and Marianne from returning to the village to see the students this summer.

Vicki and Marianne have been able to walk along side the students with the immense help of Nalukwago, Madrine, who is helping RBG students adjust from in person schooling to distance learning. Distance learning looks a little different for the students in Uganda compared to most students in the US. Due to the lack of regular electricity, internet service and limited access to computers in the village, the RBG students must learn over radio, where they receive only one hour a day of their class curriculum. Thanks to our incredible donors, Reaching Beyond Globally was able to purchase school workbooks created by the Secondary Schools for each of the students to supplement their learning. The students have been working very hard to maintain their education, and are very appreciative of the extra workbooks:

"I'm happy to be receiving our packages [workbooks]. I am ready to read and revise everything that we received. I promise that I am ready to join school, even if it is next year. Any time they open, I am ready to go back and I will fulfill my goals. Thank you."

Nimushaba, Angella

"I thank you for the packages you sent us to keep us busy in the break. I appreciate you for putting us in your heart. Thank you."

Bagenda, Joab

Fostering Community for our Students:

Reaching Beyond Globally aims to empower their students through education and community. In June 2020, all the RBG students had that opportunity to speak over a Whatsapp video call with Frankline Matanji. Frankline is currently pursuing his PhD in Journalism and Mass Communications at University of Iowa. He grew up in rural Kenya on a small farm not dissimilar to the students of RBG. They had the opportunity to hear how his journey through education brought him to the United States and ask him questions about what it was like to achieve his dreams. Check out our latest blog entry to learn more about their time together: Learning From Frankline.



Students waiting for their virtual meeting with Frankline Matanji.



Secondary School Workbooks provided by RBG.



Secondary Students with their workbooks during the COVID-19 shut down of Uganda.



Students on the call with Frankline Matanji.

How is Uganda responding to COVID-19? President Museveni delivered an address at the end of March 2020, where he set out measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. All schools are closed, and students have been sent home. No one is allowed into or out of Uganda by air, water, foot, bicycle, motorcycle, private cars and/or bus. Religious and public gatherings, weddings and funerals are suspended. All public transportation is suspended. The only vehicles allowed to operate are government vehicles and those carrying food and other permitted essentials. Markets trading in non-food items are closed. All Ugandan citizens are instructed to use careful hygienic practices i.e.; washing hands, masks and distancing. As of September 10, 2020 Uganda has had 4,101 cases with 46 deaths. The president has made small adjustments to the restrictions, allowing top classes in University, Secondary and Primary school to return to sit for exams and is starting to allow small gatherings. Overall, Uganda is still under very strict restrictions.

How is RBG responding to the ongoing changes? Our goal for this year was to support 10 students in their Secondary School education by providing funds for their school and housing fees. With the onset of COVID-19 the students were sent home, no longer needing school or housing fees. As a result, we shifted our goals to support students so they may continue their schooling at home. This required purchasing and/or making copies of student workbooks and distributing them to the RBG students. Although transportation fees in Uganda have increased with the onset of COVID-19 restrictions, our RBG donors made it possible to supply our students with items needed to keep them engaged and able to study. The families and students are extremely appreciative.

What's new with RBG? Reaching Beyond Globally has continued to develop avenues for raising funds. RBG is now a recipient of Amazon's Smile Program. Through this program Amazon will make a donation to RBG with every purchase you make (0.5% of your purchase). When making a purchase from Amazon, please consider doing so through smile.amazon. You will need to set your charity preference only once, select Reaching Beyond Globally when prompted, and then shop through this link as you would normally shop through amazon. You will need to use the smile.amazon link every time for Reaching Beyond Globally to receive the donations.

We are also a member of the Facebook Charitable Giving Team. This allows us to receive 100% of any donations made to RBG through our Facebook campaigns. Facebook will also include us in various campaigns they run to support small non-profits. Please consider raising funds for Reaching Beyond Globally through Facebook Campaigns. One great way to do this is by celebrating your birthday with us by "Donating your Birthday" on Facebook.

Creating a non-profit can feel like a never-ending "to-do" list of filling out forms, registrations and applications. The most recent item to check off our list was registering as a non-profit with the CA Attorney General. We are very pleased to announce that we are officially registered with the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts!

Reaching Beyond Globally also has an official P.O. box now. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 384 San Anselmo, CA, 94960.

Reaching Beyond Globally's mission is to help any child in financial need pursue higher education, giving them the opportunity to change their life trajectory. By matching a student in need with a donor of financial means, Reaching Beyond Globally will enable each child to further their education and give them opportunities to find a career previously thought impossible.

Reaching Beyond Globally (RBG) was established as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation on January 22, 2020. In the first year of operation RBG sent ten students from Deirdre Ann Academy (DAA) to Secondary School. Vicki and Marianne first went to DAA in 2018 to teach ballet to the students of this Primary school. They fell in love with Uganda and the people they were teaching to dance and wanted to help them achieve their educational goals and ambitions.



Nalukwago, Madrine checking in on the Secondary School students.



More workbooks to help the students maintain their studies.



501 (c) (3) corporation 84-2774640 Find us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and at reachingbeyondglobally.org