



*Edridah with her goats that generate income which she uses to pay school fees for her grandchildren.*

## A journey to financial independence!

**G**iving goats to grandmothers has been one of the activities that have contributed to the improvement of income and economy of grannies. This activity was launched in 2007 when the Grandmothers Support Project funded by the Stephen Lewis Foundation was started.

A total number of 150 local breed goats were given out to 150 grandmothers in Kabale. Four exotic Boer goats were also given to the village leaders to breed and improve quality of the local goats given to the grandmothers.

Edridah Bamuriho is one of the seniors who have benefited from this program. She has been a

beneficiary of ROTOM since 2010. In 2010 she received a goat which has produced a number of goats. She gave one goat to another granny when hers had a kid as is part of the project policy.

These goats have over the years been her dependable source of income. Whenever a need arises, she sells a goat at a price between UGX100, 000 and 150,000(\$40-50). With this income, she has paid school fees for her grandchildren, renovated her house and taken care of her home. Right now, Granny Edridah has 12 goats.

For seniors like Edridah, old age is no longer to be feared but celebrated as a financially independent woman.



Agnes works on a customer in her salon.

## MILESTONE

# Dropped out of school early but able to sustain herself

According to the Government of Uganda Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development situation analysis report (2009), older persons care for 63% of the orphans. On average, every granny under ROTOM cares for 3 children. Welfare for these children is a major worry and burden for older persons.

In a bid to lessen the burden of dependants ROTOM supports grandchildren of supported older persons. Presently, 300 children are supported to access health care, education and leadership training. Twelve of them are in university.

Agnes Ayebazibwe is one of the grandchildren who have benefited very much from this program and is now able to sustain herself, her family and siblings. Agnes received training in hairdressing and salon management with support from ROTOM. After that training, Agnes set up her own salon in Rwahi town, Ntugamo district and earns between UGX15,000 and 30,000 (\$6-12) a day. With this she has also been able to buy better equipment for her salon. In her salon she also trains other girls to learn hairdressing. She has become a local entrepreneur and helper.

She is now saving to buy a big hair dryer. With a dryer like that, she will have an edge over all the salons in the area.

ROTOM took on Agnes after the death of her mother and she was left in the care of the grandmother. By this time, Agnes had dropped out of school in primary six (6th Grade) due to lack of school fees and requirements. Even when the grandmother died in 2010, Agnes was still able to continue. Agnes was able to continue because she had the support of ROTOM.

Support to Agnes and many grandchildren has been made possible because of support from The Stephen Lewis Foundation, Beautiful World Canada Foundation, Children's Hope Chest from USA and individual support of some sponsors.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

# David Forrest Joins ROTOM Canada

Please join me to welcome David Forrest who has joined ROTOM Canada team as Senior Advisor. David will assist Bill and Marlene, our Canadian directors and the board to promote ROTOM in Canada.



David with his wife April

David was raised in a Christian home in Ontario Canada. After studying in a recognized college he entered the full time ministry. Although a full time pastor David was soon being invited to speak to conferences and camp meetings as a motivator and evangelist. By the late 80's he recognized a special call to go to the mission fields of the world and help where needed. David has preached in over 35 countries and helped a number of ministries. David is not new to Uganda and East Africa, during his time as Pastor David managed the Glad Tiding Bible College in Kampala and was instrumental in the building of the Lira clinic maternity ward in Lira both in Uganda. He is president and founder of Third World Ministries since 1988. David and his lovely wife April reside in Niagara on Lake Ontario Canada. David and April are proud parents of three with twelve grandchildren.

We are so excited to have David and April on the team and looking forward to serve together in the ministry of ROTOM. David plans to visit Uganda soon and we request for prayers.

*Kenneth M- Founder and Executive Director, ROTOM.*

## SENIORS' CHRISTMAS GIFT PROFILE

# EZY Stove: A healthier and easier lifestyle donation for your senior

Almost 90% of Uganda's population cooks over an open fire at least once a day. As simple and natural as it may sound, it's horribly inefficient and poses unsafe operating conditions such that burns are relatively common. Harvesting firewood for cooking fuel is one of the hardest things in the lives of older persons in Uganda today. This is because they are sometimes too weak to walk and collect the firewood in the bushes.

Smoke is another issue of concern to those dependent on the poor cooking places. The smoke, caused by burning solid fuels such as firewood, brings indoor air pollution leading to respiratory difficulties and eye infections that cause health problems among older people. This is visibly higher with a three-stone fire system used by almost 90% of the older persons we serve.

The other problem is wood scarcity. Older people are very dependent on food such as cereals and beans which take a long time to cook. Because of the scarcity of fuel, they often resort to negative coping mechanisms such as reducing the number of meals per day, and even selling part of their food ration to buy more firewood which in the end means they do not have enough to eat.

It is due to these challenges that ROTOM has found the EZY Stove to help improve the cooking status of the older persons we serve. Why the EZY Stove? It burns 40% less fuel than a three-stone fire and leads to 70% more thermal efficiency (faster cooking). It is safe, prevents burns, consumes less fire wood and reduces smoke effects.



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