



Outreach Newsletter

A publication of Reach One Touch One Ministries

Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow . . .

"Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the pride of children is their parents. Proverbs 17:6 (International Standard Version)"



Little Badru has been living with his grandmother since he was a baby. Here he is learning to tie his shoes.

One of ROTOM's objectives is to lessen the burden of dependent children on older persons and their households. And together with our different partners in the ministry, our ROTOM supported grandparents now have a reason to smile as their grandchildren are not only surviving but thriving in life. In African societies, grandparents have always played the role of solving disputes and are seen as a source of knowledge. When HIV/AIDS and war hit hard suddenly the younger generation aged 29 to 49 were no longer there. It fell to the grandparents to pick up the pieces and move on. They often do not have time to grieve because there are children that need to be looked after.

Sometimes these grandparents suddenly inherit as many as 10 to 15 grandchildren in one household, and they often have to do this without any additional income.

Even in their advanced age they are holding together the social fabric of communities.

These seniors are often not in good health. They can be sick with diabetes or high blood pressure. But they carry on in spite of the challenges, fearing what will happen to these grandchildren if they don't.

The needs of children can seem overwhelming, especially if you are unexpectedly thrust into the role of being their primary caregiver.

These aged grandparents find themselves parents to multiple children, de-

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spite their financial and physically vulnerable state.

For two years now ROTOM Katuba Care Point with the support of Children's Hope Chest has been changing the lives of children and their grandparents in a small village of Katuba in the heart of Uganda. Fred Mboowa is a 14-year old boy, and like many poor children, his is a story of brokenness, poverty and a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. At the tender age of 2, his parents broke up and abandoned him and his brother at his grandmother's home.

The parents disappeared into the city never to return. For over a decade, the grandmother toiled day and night to raise her grandsons. After breaking her leg in a bad fall, she could no longer fend for her grandchildren and at a young age, the boys had to grow up and take up the responsibility of the household. Fred took to bricklaying and other casual work to earn enough for his school fees and also to look after his grandmother. Then Katuba Care Point came along and wrought a wonderful change in Fred's life.

"Suddenly I was relieved of the hard casual labor since school fees were provided for me. I still have to work to bring some food to my grandmother. I am no longer worried about being sent away from school. I get food from the project as well so I no longer sleep hungry. When I am sick, I receive medical treatment. Above

— Older persons living dignified and fulfilled lives! —

all, I have known Jesus Christ through discipleship at the Care Point"

Josephine Namutebi of Bukerere also has a reason to smile after years of struggling with raising her grandchildren. One of them, Nantogo Prossy, has graduated from the University with a degree in International Development and has even gotten a job working with vulnerable girl children who, like her, are being supported by ROTOM in higher institutions of learning by Beautiful World Canada. For grandmothers like Josephine, the joy of watching her granddaughter succeed is filled with a sense of relief that she no

longer has to worry about the welfare of her granddaughter. She knows her granddaughter will be able to support both of them, especially as Josephine ages. Living into the legacy of her grandmother, Prossy has also taken up the care of two of her siblings.

For the many orphaned and vulnerable grandchildren of Uganda, grandparents have been the only beacon of hope and the driving force behind their survival and success. These aged, and often frail, members of our community have been, and will continue to be, the strongest and surest hope of our society.

SUPPORT A SENIOR!

For only UGX 80,000, US \$30, €25 or CDN\$35 a month, you can support a senior in Uganda. Your friendship allows seniors to:

- Hear a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Participate in regular Christian support fellowship
- Receive bi-weekly home visits from volunteer counselors
- Receive free regular medical screening and treatment
- Receive support to enable improvement in income and food security
- Access safe and healthy water and housing

Friends receive a photo, update report and two letters every year from the senior they sponsor.



*Thank you
our faithful friends
and partners in
this ministry to
older persons and
their households.
We wish you a
Merry Christmas
and a Happy
New Year.*

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Christmas Gift



Traditionally, people are given cultural dresses as a sign of **love and respect**. Ladies wear long colourful dresses called **Gomesi** and **Mshanana** while men wear long robes called **Kanzu**.

For \$25 you can show your friend love by giving a cultural dress to a ROTOM supported senior.