

OUTREACH Newsletter

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The Gift of Love: *Christmas Blessings* at ROTOM!



Image1: Picture of Jajja Florence M. who joined the ROTOM family in 2011

In the shimmering lights of the Christmas season, as the world exchanges gifts wrapped in love, there exists a poignant dream for many vulnerable and impoverished individuals. While these individuals may seldom afford gifts, ROTOM stands as a beacon of hope—recognizing that even those in the twilight of their years, living in poverty, deserve the warmth of a thoughtful Christmas gift.

Jajja Florence M. joined the ROTOM family in 2011. Initially, she was a village volunteer; extending her helping hand to frail seniors in fellowships and also ensuring they kept up with their medication. Witnessing her fellow grannies receiving Christmas gifts, Florence held onto a belief that someday, the benevolence of others would also touch her life.

This Christmas marks more than a decade of joy for the 73-year-old Jajja Florence. Over the years, she has unwrapped blessings that have illuminated her life—a new solar lamp, a thermos flask, Gomezis, green stoves, water tanks, a radio and shoes. Among these, she speaks with particular fondness about the radio and a pair of shoes.

Being an active volunteer who visited

so many seniors' homes in her village, her old, worn-out shoes were due for replacement. The Christmas where she received a pair of shoes was especially memorable—it was her first-ever pair of new footwear. She wore them with pride everywhere for three years until they could no longer keep up.

Even after a decade, Jajja Florence's excitement for ROTOM's Christmas gifts remains undiminished. In her words, "I always look forward to these gifts even if I know there's a gift coming. I'm always wondering, guessing and very excited to know what our ROTOM people planned for us."

These seemingly small and insignificant gifts breathe new life into forgotten seniors, reminding them of their worth, love, and care. As we left Florence's house, she demonstrated the Christmas spirit of giving. Turning down money offered for a new mat she had weaved, she gifted it to her guest, radiating happiness from being able to share the joy she experiences.

In this season of giving, let us be reminded of the words from the Bible, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). The true essence of Christmas lies not just in the gifts we receive but in the joy of giving, as demonstrated by Jajja Florence, a shining example of love and generosity.

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Embracing Dignity: A ROTOM Christmas Chronicle



Photo: Some of the worn out mattresses and thin blankets the Jaja's use as beddings to aquire some warm.



Her thin bed sheet, a feeble shield against the cold, is a reminder of the challenges that come with aging. As she shares in her own poignant words, “the older I grow, the harder it is to keep warm.”

In the heart of Kabulo village, where time seems to move slowly and stories are etched into the lines on weathered faces, a silent struggle against the biting cold persists. As Christmas approaches, the anticipation is not just for the festivities but for the warmth that comes in the form of thoughtful gifts from ROTOM.

In many villages with ROTOM supported older persons, there's a haunting nocturnal shiver—a chilling reality that transcends the mere drop in temperature. It's a struggle, a battle against the biting cold, where pulling up a tattered blanket offers little solace. In this cold harsh reality, seniors find themselves grappling with worn-out covers and battling the night as it seeps through the holes in their thin defenses. Imagine Kevina N, an 83-year-old senior who lives with her sister Flavia and granddaughter, face nights without proper covers. Her thin bed sheet, a feeble shield against the cold, is a reminder of the challenges that come with aging. As she shares in her own poignant words, “the older I grow, the harder it is to keep warm.”

Across the village, Merabu N., a guardian to eight grandchildren navigates the scarcity of warm

covers as the cold Christmas season approaches. In a quest to provide warmth, she shares her bed with one of her granddaughters, ensuring they all have some cover against the cold night.

For Jajja Elifazi M, his struggle goes beyond acquiring a warm blanket. With an unfinished house and twin grandsons' school fees absorbing his meager earnings, Elifazi's family sleeps on old mattresses side by side. The thin blanket they share has seen no better days.



Kevina N, an 83-year-old senior who lives with her sister Flavia and granddaughter, face nights without proper covers.

ROTOM's Christmas Gift Campaign is not just about blankets; it's about addressing a multifaceted need for dignity and comfort. The lack of basic household items haunts these seniors, robbing them of the dignity that poverty often steals.

In the hushed corners of the more than 100 remote villages with ROTOM supported older persons, the need goes beyond warmth; it's about reclaiming a sense of self-worth, a dignity that transcends material gifts. It's a call to action, a plea to recognize the humanity in these quiet struggles.

As the Christmas season unfolds, ROTOM would like to gift a Blanket to every supported senior. A new blanket for the hundreds of seniors supported by ROTOM would mean the world to them. This gift is perfect for the seniors as it will help improve their sleeping condition which is an important part of their daily lives.

Each warm blanket is a stitch in a larger narrative of compassion, recognition, and love.

This Christmas, let's join ROTOM in gifting more than just warmth; let's gift back dignity and humanity to those

who deserve it the most. “Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.” (Proverbs 19:17)

Will you consider making a donation to our seniors' Christmas blankets!

ROTOM Uganda

Mobile Money Options;
MTN: 0788 188-022
Airtel Money: 0752 881-107
Reference: Christmas Gift

ROTOM Donation Bank Account

Account Name: ROTOM Uganda
Account Number: 95100200000206
Bank: Bank of Baroda
Branch: Mukono
Swift Code: BARBUGKA

ROTOM USA

<https://reachone-touchone.org/us/special-impact-funds>

ROTOM Canada

<https://reachone-touchone.org/cd>

ROTOM UK

<https://reachone-touchone.org/gb>

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