



*Pictured: Ruth's grandmother Nakanwagi supports her with her home school work.*

## Keeping children actively learning... *in a time of crisis.*

“Supporting older persons raise children in their care through education, healthcare and spiritual nurture”.

**F**or all children in Uganda, the outbreak of the Corona virus (COVID-19) resulted in a temporary closure of all schools. And for some of them, this was a happy moment because they would be spending a lot of time at home with their families. Yet for others, they were sad that they would be missing their school environments, friends, and teachers.

Ruth, who is a child registered at The ROTOM School was very unhappy when she was told that she could not come to school for a while. Ruth who lives with her grandmother had just started to feel comfortable in The ROTOM School

environment and had made a few friends. She was learning how to hold a pencil, how to write and also how to express herself. However, with the lockdown, Ruth and her grandmother became very worried that all these skills would quickly fade away.

The ROTOM school teachers knew that they needed to keep the children actively learning. So they started preparing weekly school work packages for each child which were delivered to every child's home including Ruth's home. Her teacher would visit her once a week to support her with any academic challenges, and also check on

her general well-being. And in just a few weeks, Ruth went from learning how to firmly hold her pencil, and writing her name, to learning how to identify with some letter sounds.

Ruth's grandmother Nakanwagi said “I am so grateful for the care and support my granddaughter Ruth has received from the ROTOM School during this time of the pandemic. It is so rare to come across such care and love these days. They have not only catered for her education needs but have gone an extra mile to care for her health and spiritual needs. She can now even pray for us...and it makes me so proud”.



## A ROTOM Champions' Response to COVID-19.

Allen N., a ROTOM champion likes to run her feet over the pedals of her sewing machine, admiring its contours. The machine was given to her by the ROTOM Champions Program to support her in her Fashion & Design course that she is pursuing. When schools closed, Allen carried her sewing machine home with her to be able to complete her school assignments. Little did she know that it would be helpful beyond her school assignments!

During an interview with her, Allen says "when the government made it mandatory for all Ugandans to wear face masks while interacting with others, I decided to learn how to make face masks because there was a ready market.

I used the internet to teach myself how to make them since this was something I had never done before. The first few face masks that I made were a disaster, and I got discouraged. I'm so grateful to the ROTOM staff who encouraged and advised me through this new learning experience. I continued to improve until I begun producing pretty good masks.

Now, I've made over 2000 face masks that I was able to sell and earn an income which has been a great blessing for my family during this difficult time. I am also saving some of my income to purchase my own sewing machine to use after my graduation".



"Before the COVID-19 pandemic, I was in my last year of study pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with Education. With the lockdown, I had to come back home. I learned that washing hands regularly with soap is one of the precautionary measures against COVID-19. So I decided to use the skills I acquired from the ROTOM Champions' program to make liquid soap. I've been able to sell it in my community and I was able to earn some money to support my family". **Regina A narrates.**

**The ROTOM Champions supports grandchildren of older persons attain vocational/trade skills, college and university education.**

## From the Founder & Executive Director



**Kenneth E. Mugayehwenkyi**

By now, we all know that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease has infected nearly every continent, forced many countries into states of emergency, sent individuals into varying levels of quarantine and isolation, and shuttered businesses and schools. The impact of this pandemic has left many of us including our children uncertain about the future, and at a loss of what to do next.

Now more than ever, our work of supporting older persons raise children in their care is necessary. Currently, ROTOM supports **430 grandchildren** through education, healthcare and spiritual nurture. And you have made a difference by helping us do this vital work. Your support has helped us to continue to be present in the lives of older persons who are raising many grandchildren especially in these difficult times. Even though we suspended all our group gatherings, our seniors and grandchildren are being checked in on regularly by our staff, either in person (only when absolutely necessary), or by phone.

As we wait in the long nights for things to get better, and they definitely will, I give you my sincere gratitude and appreciation for your continued support and generosity towards ROTOM's work. The work we do has so many moments of true transformation and inspiration. And you make all this possible.

**God bless you!**

## This Christmas



**"As you prepare for a season of gift giving in the coming months, will you make this Christmas Special for a Senior in Uganda & Ethiopia!**

**ROTOM would like to give a 2 liter aluminum stainless steel Thermos Flask to every supported senior".**

**For more information, please visit [www.reachone-touchone.org](http://www.reachone-touchone.org)**

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