

# OUTREACH

A PUBLICATION OF REACH ONE TOUCH  
ONE MINISTRIES (ROTOM)

## News|etter

# LOVE LIFTED HER: THE STORY THAT BIRTHED ROTOM

**W**hile Kenneth lived and worked in Franklin, PA in USA, he was made aware of the needs of education and food support for two little girls by his wife Miriam who was back in Uganda and working for a compassion project. The poor and vulnerable girls, Elizabeth (5 years) and Margaret (7 years) lived with their elderly grandmother. Miriam shared with Kenneth pictures of these girls and of their home and it was shocking to see the dilapidated shack in which they lived. Moved by this, Kenneth and his friend Gwen Kahler, decided to build a new house for the family. It so happened that Kenneth was going home to Uganda for Christmas to meet his family, and to help with paperwork that would eventually enable his family join him in USA; the land of opportunities.

While in Uganda, Kenneth used part of his time to build a new house for Elizabeth. Physically seeing the house was a shock but most shocking was the response from Elizabeth's situation. Kenneth remembers his first impression of Elizabeth: "She was dressed in rags. She looked stressed and sick. I saw poverty, despair, and hopelessness in

her face. Like her life had already come to an end".

When Elizabeth first met Kenneth, she was suspicious of his motivation and wondered why on earth anyone would be so kind and generous. She slowly warmed up when she learned he was Miriam's husband-since Miriam had already been helping her grandchildren. By the end of construction of the 2 roomed brick and metal roof house, Elizabeth had come to realize what a blessing God had brought her way. She realized that the Mugayehwenkyis had come to help her and her granddaughters. And it was real.

For Jajja Elizabeth, who had lost her whole family, this visit was a ray of hope in an otherwise bleak existence. "I was alone. All I had to live for were two little grandchildren, my children had left behind. And at 70, I knew it was just a matter of time before I met my creator. I felt that I had outlived my usefulness"

Touched beyond words, Kenneth



The final years of Kirokya's life were a pleasant experience thanks to you, friends of ROTOM

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**At 70, I knew it was just a matter of time before I met my creator. I felt that I had outlived my usefulness" – Jajja Elizabeth Kiryokya**

returned to the United States where he began to mobilize support from friends in Pennsylvania to help other grandmothers that he had met through his friendship with Elizabeth. His eyes had been opened to the dire situation of the elderly in Uganda and his heart burned to alleviate their distress. In October 2003, he left USA and returned to Uganda to serve the elderly. He started ROTOM in October 2003 to provide care and support for

older persons and the children in their care.

Within a period of 5 months, ROTOM had grown from supporting just 4 older persons to an astounding 49 older persons in both Namubiru, Mukono and Muhanga, Kabale (now Rukiga) districts of Uganda.

Today, ROTOM has directly supported over 2000 older persons and 600 children providing spiritual and emotional support, healthcare, food and income security, water and sanitation, safer housing, and education support for their grandchildren.

ROTOM also hosts seniors' fellowships which continue to provide an avenue for ROTOM supported older persons to find a sense of community and purpose. They come together to share their stories,



exchange ideas, support each other, learn about Jesus, and also share a BIG nutritious meal. This day is an opportune moment for the older persons to learn about nutrition, personal hygiene, and have their blood sugar and blood pressure levels checked by a ROTOM staff or volunteers.

Friends, your faithfulness over the years has made ROTOM's work possible in lives of thousands of older persons in Uganda and Ethiopia. Thank you for giving the gift of love; the same love which gave Elizabeth a new lease of life. Your love has given hope, dignity and respect for older persons. We couldn't

do this without YOU!

In 2011, Jajja Elizabeth Kiryokya went to be with the Lord but her story brought to light the needs of millions of older persons in Uganda. She remains a fundamental pillar of the work that ROTOM has accomplished.

## SUPPORT A SENIOR!

For only UGX 100,000, you can become a friend to a senior in Uganda. With 20 new friends to mark our 20 years of service, 20 Jajjas' lives will be transformed.



## CELEBRATING CARE AND DIGNITY FOR OLDER PERSONS

Care is a difficult and demanding job but the importance of maintaining dignity especially while caring for vulnerable populations should never be overlooked. For 20 years, ROTOM has stayed true to its vision of older persons living dignified and fulfilled lives. This has meant creating awareness and running all our programs in such a way that older persons are treated with care, dignity and respect in all aspects of their daily lives. We have encouraged equal treatment of older persons in all our programs, and at community and national levels.

Through our programs, we have provided excellent geriatric health care services, increased food and income security of older persons' households, improved access to secure, safer and healthier housing, increased awareness about the needs and rights of older persons, and supported older persons to raise children in their care through education. We have seen tremendous transformational impact in many families and communities where we serve. This success is your success-so we invite you to celebrate with us.

As we reflect on 20 years of serving older persons, we want to emphasize the importance of caring for our aging population. And as we look ahead, we hope that we will continue creating sustainable programs that will continue to positively impact the lives of many older persons for generations to come. In honor of our 20th anniversary, ROTOM



Your generosity continues to ensure that Jajjas like Evelyn lead dignified and fulfilled lives even in their old age.

has planned a series of activities that showcase the work we've accomplished together. These activities will also aim to raise awareness of the needs and rights of older persons. And in keeping with the spirit of generosity, we hope you will consider making a gift to our 20th Anniversary Campaign.

Our goal is to raise UGX 100,000,000 (USD 27,000). This money will go towards purchase of medical equipment for our two Health Centers. We strongly believe in strengthening geriatric care which is now a critical need within our communities and across Uganda. It is our humble appeal to all of you who have supported ROTOM over the years

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to continue being good and faithful stewards and join us in this effort.

From all of us at ROTOM, we say thank you! We couldn't have done it without the support of our partners, donors, and

volunteers who have equipped us to achieve our mission over the years. We look forward to continuing this journey with renewed vigor and determination to create a better future for the elderly and in turn a better society for all.

### ROTOM Giving Options:

Airtel Money: 0752881107 |  
MTN: 0788188022

Account Name: ROTOM  
Uganda | Account Number:  
95100200000206  
Bank: Bank of Baroda | Branch:  
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