

OUTREACH NEWSLETTER



A Publication of Reach One Touch One Ministries (ROTOM)

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Providing Materials for Home Study *A New Way for Children to Continue Learning.*

The problems COVID-19 has caused seem nearly impossible to count, but millions of school children in Uganda share one problem that has eclipsed all others: total closedown of all schools. Though necessary, the closure of schools took away something the children value greatly: going to school. This has left millions of children without essential school-based learning, health care, nutrition, protection, mental health, and psychosocial support services at a time when they need them most.

Eight-year-old Gloria had just joined The ROTOM School after being out of school for over two years. Her grandmother could not afford to take her and 7 other grandchildren under her care, to school because of financial difficulties. They were constantly chased out of class because of school fees debts. Gloria's grandmother ran out of excuses to give to the schools and the children finally dropped out of school completely. Together with their grandmother, the children set about attending to their garden for survival.

In due time, The ROTOM School had become Gloria's happy place and haven. She had made lots of friends, was assured of timely nutritious meals, and felt well cared for. Unfortunately, the nationwide lockdown and closure of schools brought Gloria's joy to a sudden halt. Education was the only hope she had for a better future and with the school closed for God knows when, Gloria had lost all hope.

"One day, my teacher came home and told me that we were going to be learning from home", Gloria recalls. This news was the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel for Gloria. "With all hopes gone, this seemed like a dream. I was happy when we started studying at home. At first, this was a little difficult and strange but I have gotten used to it now. The ROTOM School has supplied all the materials I need to continue learning from home. My school has also given me a regular supply of food, clothing, soap, vaseline, toothpaste, and many other things to keep me healthy.

None of my friends in the neighbourhood have received any kind of care from their schools. Whenever my cousins and I are doing our school work, they love to come around and we work together. This is how we are continuing to learn together, and our neighbourhood is so grateful for this opportunity", shares a joyful Gloria.

When COVID-19 reared its ugly head in Uganda, it left a trail of fear, despair, and devastation in its wake. Even in these dark days, The ROTOM School has not stopped supporting children like Gloria, who are the most vulnerable. It has helped children, parents, grandparents and the entire community to know that learning can continue even if schools are closed. It has been more than 17 months since the schools in Uganda closed, and during this time, the children at The ROTOM School have improved their reading, writing and creativity, all of which has restored their hope in education and a bright future. ROTOM is so grateful for all the support you give to The ROTOM School.



Pictured: A jolly Gloria attends to her school work package which she received from The ROTOM School.

In the background is Gloria's grandmother Merabu, weaving a mat.

From the Founder & Executive Director

*“Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him”
Psalm 127:3 (NIV)*

The ROTOM School

Building Update

Dear Friends and Partners,

We know as it is stated in the bible that children are a blessing from the Lord. The special bond older persons have with their grandchildren represents the gift of love that has been given to us freely by Jesus Christ.

A pure love that looks beyond our own pain, suffering or struggles.

However, when older persons find themselves unable to provide food, education, health care, shelter etc. to grandchildren left in their care by their deceased or struggling children, it's natural for them to question whether they are a blessing or a burden. Seeing how difficult it has been for older persons to raise the children in their care touches us. That is why ROTOM started programs like the Grandmothers' Support Project, The ROTOM Champions Project, ROTOM Katuba Care Point, and The ROTOM School.

Between these programs and partnerships with Stephen Lewis Foundation-Canada, Beautiful World Canada, Children HopeChest Uganda, and many individual friends in USA, Canada, UK, Germany and Uganda, we support 400 grandchildren. Through these, ROTOM is committed to providing education, health care, spiritual nurture, and mentorship for children left in the care of older persons.

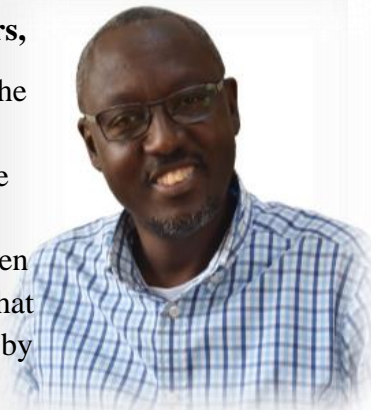
The ROTOM School currently supports grandchildren at kindergarten and primary level. At the School, we focus on Character, Innovation and Excellence. Following the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the school adjusted its programming so that children can continue learning. Children do not come to the school campus. Instead, we send study packages to their homes. This enables the ROTOM School children to continue their school work with assistance from ROTOM field assistants, village volunteers and teachers.

Proverbs 22:6 says “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it” (NIV). It is our desire that these children will all grow in character, innovation and excellence, and their stories will impact their families and many others in their communities.

Thank you for transforming the lives of ROTOM supported children through your generosity.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Mugayehwenkyi



While children are learning from home, construction at The ROTOM School has kicked into high gear. It has been wonderful to see the school buildings making such good progress. The school's first four classroom block was completed and awaits the children's return for in-class learning. And construction of a second four classroom block is under way. Walls have been lifted, the roof is on, and windows and doors are also in place. Next will be electrical, plumbing and other finishes. We hope to have this block also ready by the beginning of the new school year in early 2022.



Left: The completed four classroom block at The ROTOM School. **Right:** Interior view of one of the classrooms at the ROTOM School



Above: The construction progress of the second four classroom block at The ROTOM School.

Our next big project for the school is construction of a school dormitory. The school dormitory will provide shelter to children whose grandparents have passed away and are in need of a safe place to enhance their well-being. The dormitory will provide an environment where children feel welcome, loved and encouraged to grow, and learn together.

Many thanks to all the compassionate and generous individuals who have given towards the building projects at The ROTOM School. We invite **YOU** too to be a part of this amazing journey. Please consider donating any amount of your choice towards The ROTOM School building projects.

SUPPORT A ROTOM GRANDCHILD



Your support of just **\$38 USD, \$35/\$60 CAD, €38, £30 or UGX 100,000** a month connects a child living in poverty with a loving and caring ROTOM Child Support Program.

Your support will enable a child attend The ROTOM School where he/she will be nurtured in **Character, Innovation and Excellence**. The child will receive; Education, Nutritious foods, Health and hygiene training, Regular home visitations, Extra-Curricular activities & Livelihood skills, and Mentorship to help him/her discover their God-given potential. Most important of all, your child will have an opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ and be encouraged to develop a lifelong relationship with God.

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