

It takes a Village... *Community Volunteers Caring for Seniors.*

The sentiment “It takes a village” encapsulates one of the most powerful aspect of human growth and development. We all have a village surrounding us. And so does every senior supported through ROTOM. Sometimes this village comprises of the people who raised us. The people who care and support us daily. And the people who walk alongside us on mountaintops and through the valleys.

For older persons (seniors) to escape the cycle of poverty, isolation, despair and disease, they need a team of people who care, support, protect, and empower them. If you support a ROTOM Senior, you’re a member of that team for that senior. So are ROTOM village volunteers who are our hands and feet in the communities we support.

ROTOM Village Volunteers are part of the ROTOM team who play a crucial role in ensuring that seniors receive the care they need through the different ROTOM programs. ROTOM Village Volunteers are seniors themselves and receive support. What makes them volunteers is because they still have strength to support others and, are also able to read and write. Each village volunteer oversees 8-12 seniors in their own community.

They know the needs of the seniors because they relate with them on a daily basis. Amidst the surge of both the 1st and 2nd wave of COVID-19 in Uganda, ROTOM village volunteers like Margaret Magoba (aged 67) played a vital role in ensuring that seniors kept healthy and safe in their homes. We had 100% access to health care by seniors. Over 60 community volunteers (no medical background) were trained on how to use digital blood pressure machines, and how to assess for basic and common health problems affecting seniors. Each senior had their blood pressure measured at least once a week by a ROTOM village volunteer, who also monitored how the seniors’ took their prescribed medicines.

The village volunteers received smart phones-making it easy to have audio & video calls with the ROTOM doctors & nurses during home visits as majority of seniors lack phones. This enabled us to have on phone and online assessments of the seniors’ health without necessarily moving.

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Pictured: Margaret (Village Volunteer) takes Senior Nzera’s blood pressure reading using a digital blood pressure machine.

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“I have been a ROTOM village volunteer for the past 5 years and I have greatly enjoyed my role because I get to connect with seniors. They have become part of my family. During the 1st wave of COVID-19 in March 2021, I had an opportunity to be trained on how to take blood pressure readings using a digital blood pressure machine. This is something I never would have learnt because I have no medical background. Fortunately, the medical team took time and taught me how to use such a machine.

This is something I never would have learnt because I have no medical background. Fortunately, the medical team took time and taught me how to use such a machine. On a daily basis since then, I get to check the seniors’ blood pressures whenever I visit them at home. I can also take my own blood pressure and know how I am doing.

Overall, being a village volunteer has helped me serve my community better. I have been able to work with the ROTOM staff to solve some of the problems that our seniors face. Sometimes this journey is like a rollercoaster ride but it is so much worth it because together, we are making a huge difference in the lives of our seniors and communities”, narrates a joyful Margaret.

Margaret and more than 80 other ROTOM village volunteers are some of our everyday heroes who live out the call for improving the lives of ROTOM supported seniors. Their selfless service truly demonstrates an amazing dedication in caring for vulnerable seniors and children left in their care. Together, we are living out ROTOM’s vision and mission, and proving that it truly takes a village to care for one another.



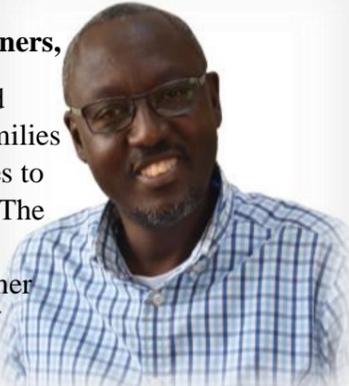
From the Founder & Executive Director

“Now, you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it...”

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

Dear Friends and Partners,

Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to the families who have lost loved ones to the deadly coronavirus. The COVID-19 situation continues to evolve further creating a great sense of unease everywhere.



During these times, we have witnessed a lot of loss, pain, grief and uncertainty. Each of us has been impacted in different ways. Personally, I lost my older brother of 58 years to COVID-19 in June this year. However, we have also witnessed an extra-ordinary favour of God on our lives. We have witnessed a caring village of friends, families, and supporters like you who have stood with us.

In spite of the pandemic, we have had a blessed year. Our supported seniors and children have stayed home safe, happy and healthy. We have been blown away by the generosity of each of you who have continued to stand with us.

You have truly played an essential part of caring for our seniors as a body of Christ. Thank you for your sacrifice. We couldn't do what we do without your love and support.

As we draw closer to the end of this year, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I hope you will take a moment to reflect on the difference you have made this year as you celebrate the holiday season, regardless of how you celebrate it. And that you will join me in ringing in the New year with anticipation of all that we will accomplish together in 2022.

May you experience the wonder of God's abiding love, as He guides you, through each day of the coming year.

May God's blessings be with you, at Christmas, through the New Year and always!

Thank you for being a part of our village which ensures that older persons live dignified and fulfilled lives!

Be well and stay safe!

Warmly,

Kenneth E. Mugayehwenkyi

This Christmas

Gift a ROTOM Senior with a Metal Storage box

“As you prepare for a season of gift giving this December, will you make Christmas Special for a ROTOM Senior”.

Storage is very important in the care and maintenance of clothing. Over 95% of ROTOM supported seniors keep their clothes on clothes lines that are tied across their room (s). The clothes are hang on the clothes lines in no particular order or use of hangers. Unfortunately, with this type of storage, clothes easily get dirty because of the dust in the seniors' mud houses, or dust blown by the wind. The hanging clothes also harbor mosquitoes and other vermin.

Other seniors keep their clothes and important personal documents in sacks, plastic papers, locally woven baskets, plastic bags and old cardboard boxes. Sadly, when rats, cockroaches, bedbugs or other pests invade the seniors' houses, they are disappointed to find out that their important clothes and documents have been destroyed by these pests.

Each year, ROTOM gifts all its supported seniors with a special Christmas gift which-normally is a much needed item by the seniors and their families. This Christmas, ROTOM would like to gift a Metal Storage box to all its supported seniors.



For only UGX 50,000 or \$30USD or \$35CAD or £30 or €30 per senior, you can make your contribution via mobile money or through the bank.

MTN Mobile Money

Number: 0788 188 022

Name: Reach One Touch One Ministries

AIRTEL Money

Number: 0752 881 107

Name: Reach One Touch One Ministries Limited

ROTOM Donation Bank Account

Account Number: ROTOM Uganda

Account Number: 95100200000206

Bank: Bank of Baroda

Branch: Mukono

Swift Code: BARBUGKA

Kindly visit www.reachone-touchone.org for more giving options. Don't forget to use **“Christmas Gift”** as your reference.

SUPPORT A SENIOR (Make a real life difference)



For only **US \$38, CAD \$35/\$60, €30, £27 or UGX 100,000** a month, you can support a senior in Uganda.

Your friendship allows a senior to:

- Hear a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Participate in regular Christian support fellowships.
- Receive bi-weekly home visits from ROTOM staff and 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 etc.

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