

# Ourganda NEWSLETTER

February, 2022 | PO Box 874205, Vancouver, WA 98687 | [www.ourganda.org](http://www.ourganda.org) | [getintouch@ourganda.org](mailto:getintouch@ourganda.org) | (360) 624-7271

## Everyone stopped breathing for a moment - instinctively.

We were sitting on the patio of a small Ugandan restaurant when the doctor across the table said, "Just last week, a woman made it to the hospital in labor. The caregivers told her she needed a C-section but the hospital could not help her. If you can find your own sutures, she was told, we can deliver the baby."

**Are you kidding me?** How is a woman in labor - in Bundibugyo, Uganda - supposed to find sutures?

The same thing can happen when a pregnant woman arrives at the hospital for a normal delivery. If she does not show up with her own birthing kit, she is all too often turned away.

## BIRTHING KITS

**Q: What does a birthing kit include?**

A: Gauze, sterile blade, string or cord, receiving sheet, surgical gloves, and soap.

**Q: Why does the hospital not provide these items?**

A: They don't have them.

Every time the Ourganda midwives encounter a pregnant woman, they gift her a birthing kit. Judith and Joseline have distributed hundreds of kits to women who are thrilled and thankful.

A birthing kit costs about \$8.00 each when we buy them in bulk.



## GOOD NEWS!

**Ourganda has just been granted 500 birthing kits** from Birthing Kit Foundation, Australia ([bkfa.org.au](http://bkfa.org.au)). Once the foundation receives our first report on how the kits were distributed, Ourganda is eligible to receive thousands more kits over the next three years.

This will enable our midwives to make sure every pregnant woman they encounter has her own birthing kit - whether or not she lives in one of our villages. Who would you guess is more excited: Judith and Joseline (our midwives), or the moms who feel safer and more prepared for the delivery of their babies? (I'm going with the moms!)

## WHAT ELSE DOES OURGANDA DO TO HELP WOMEN?

Here is a partial list:

- **Hygiene Kits** - Without a way to manage her menstruation, a woman is excluded from school or a job. Ourganda has distributed close to 1,000 hygiene kits so far. A simple kit is a safe, washable, long-lasting alternative she can count on month after month.
- **Family Planning** - Our medical officers and midwives provide resources and teach classes to help women and their husbands understand the benefits of choosing their family size. It is impossible for most families to adequately provide for 10 or 12 children.
- **Portable Ultrasound Unit** - Last fall, we purchased a portable ultrasound unit on this side of the ocean that we are eager to place in the hands of our clinical officers and midwives. And they cannot wait to use it in the villages! Have we ever placed anything more important into the overhead bin on a flight to Uganda? ([butterflynetwork.com](http://butterflynetwork.com)).
- **Water Systems** - Our hearts ache every time a woman struggles for hours day after day to bring water to her family. So far, donors like you have helped us install water systems in three villages that serve thousands of people. And we are ready to put a permanent smile on the faces of more women when we install the next one.



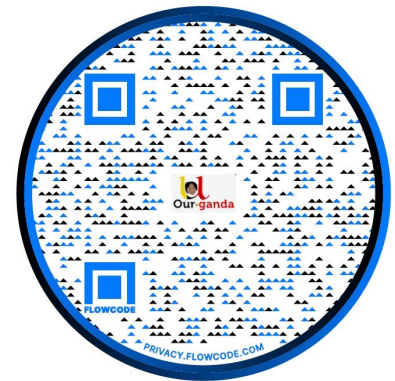
**Everyone has a right to flourish.**

For a glimpse at the pathway Ourganda has created to transform misery zones into flourishing zones, **point your phone at the QR code** or type [ourganda.org](http://ourganda.org) into your browser, scroll down an inch, and click on the video thumbnail. You will be delighted at the story of Esther & Alex.

**Thank you for being someone's hero.** Thank you for your generous gift!



**Ron Gladden**  
Ourganda Founder &  
Director



**P.S.** If you are in a position to make a donation we will be especially thankful!

Log onto [ourganda.org/donate](http://ourganda.org/donate) or send your check to:

Ourganda  
PO Box 874205  
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