

OUR GANDA



Let's ignite hope.
Let's change things.

Ourganda's **I'mpossible Pathway**

Dear Friend,

Her dream is coming true.

I wish I could have been in *Softwind Beauty Salon* last week when Yositina started her apprentice program. I won't be able to stop smiling for a very long time.

If you read our September 2023 newsletter (and you have a very good memory), you know that our medical team was thrilled to help a 16-year old girl. Yositina's leg was diseased, her mother had tried to get her to a witch doctor, and her younger sister already had two children with a man she was forced to marry. Yositina had been spared the same fate because no one wanted to marry a crippled girl.

When her surgery was over, she woke up in a clean bed for the first time in her life. She was thankful that the surgery went well, but terrified to go home. Annah, one of our medical clinical officers, arranged for Yositina to live with her aunt. She felt safe there. And when Annah took her to the market and bought her a dress, shoes, a mattress and some blankets, she knew she was loved.

But what about her future?

"What do you want to be doing a year from now?" Annah asked. Her answer: "I want to work as a beautician."

Since then, here is what happened.

- Her leg has healed. (Praise the Lord!)
- A generous, caring girl in Battle Ground, Washington, named Natalia (who happens to be my granddaughter!) started sending her tithe to Yositina so she could buy whatever she needs and a few things she only dreamed about.
- Annah and others arranged a one-year apprentice program at a Bundibugyo salon where Yositina is learning the trade and will soon be making money.



Annah and Yositina

Look at Yosytina now!



Ourganda's mission is to ignite hope. We can't do the exact same thing for every person in need, but here is what we can do: We are building a pathway that helps anyone who is self-motivated move from poverty to prosperity, from survival to self support, **from impossible to I'm possible.**

We don't care if she's a single mom with four kids and the poorest person in the village. Maybe he's recovering from alcohol addiction, he never had a chance to learn how to read or write, but now he's eager to make something of his life. Or consider a 17-year old boy or girl who has never owned anything, has no chance of attending university, but is determined to be successful someday. If people just like that are willing to work hard, take advice, delay gratification and collaborate with others, they can get on the pathway – and eventually lift themselves out of poverty.

Mission Trip 2024

Next month is Ourganda's next mission trip. We are delighted that Enactus Club members from Southern Adventist University – business professors and students – will travel halfway around the world to help us build the pathway.

Some of the students have already customized a curriculum that they share with Godfrey, our Ugandan micro business leader, every Monday. Godfrey, in turn, travels to all ten villages on a boda-boda (motorcycle) and teaches the classes to whomever is eager to learn. To date, over 100 people have finished the "Financial Literacy" course, and many are now starting to learn the "Basics of Business."

During the mission trip, the students and professors will work hand-in-hand with Godfrey to accomplish three things: (1) Research and learn everything they can about the people and the villages; (2) Evaluate the micro-businesses and classes that are already in place; and (3) Widen and pave the pathway so that hundreds – someday thousands – of people in our villages will know exactly how to change their lives **from impossible to I'm possible.**

I wish you could go to Uganda with us (you are definitely invited!). But if you can't, you can support us with prayer and with donations. Also, I can give Yosytina a hug from you, I can let her know we are proud of her progress, and I can assure *everyone* in our villages that an army of people across the ocean cares and is willing to help.



Thank you in advance for praying and, if you can, making a generous donation. **Every dollar you give empowers our team to ignite hope in one more heart!**