

OUR GANDA



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

Her Face Defaulted to **Happy**

Dear Friend,

We got to meet her!



It was a hot and humid Saturday in Uganda. In one of the most heartwarming moments of our recent mission trip, Frank, Ourganda's associate ministry coordinator, and 11 visitors from the U.S. piled into vans and navigated some of the most challenging roads anywhere to a little hut in the village of Karangoti.

None of us knew what to expect. We did know that previously, Edinus, a sweet, four-year-old girl had traveled 8 hours to a hospital where the doctors tried to save her diseased leg, but eventually, they had to amputate. The day before her surgery – when they thought her diseased leg could be saved – she smiled. The day after her surgery – when she woke up in the hospital bed and found out her leg was missing, she mentally shrugged her shoulders – and smiled.

But how is she doing now?

What about her family? How could we adequately encourage her and convey our love and support for her dad, mom, and five older siblings?

Edinus's father, Moses, rolled out a mat on the dirt in front of their home. Her mother, Bridget, along with Grandma and most of her siblings, huddled on the mat. Using her pint-sized crutches like a pro, Edinus joined them, and smiled.

After greeting the family and introducing ourselves, we expressed how thankful we felt to meet Edinus and each family member. I opened a gray-colored case containing some gifts.

Sharing Gifts and Smiles

First was a soft, beautiful African doll wearing a handmade dress. Next was a matching dress for Edinus, then a purse made of the same material, all made by loving friends back home. Inside the purse was a bottle to feed the baby, and a diaper for her to practice changing her 'daughter'.



One of my hiking friends, Todd, lost a leg when he was young and wrote a book titled *More Than Mountains* about his experience. Todd sent an autographed a copy of his book with an encouraging message for Edinus. He also recorded a personalized video that Frank translated for the family.

Moses, her father, handed us a hand-written message thanking Ourganda for helping their daughter. I assured Moses that they don't have to worry about any medical expenses. Generous donors will make sure Edinus receives a prosthesis and whatever further care she needs. But before Frank prayed with the family, something happened that surprised us all.

Leaning on her crutches, four-year-old Edinus stood up and made her way across the yard to the first of our visitors. She gave him a hug, then went to the second person, then the third person – and all around the circle. This young girl who had been through so much, personally hugged and thanked every one of us, one by one, for being her friend.

As we drove away, I swear the sky was brighter than before, that brilliant blue that God seems to reserve for very special moments. Every one of us felt humbled and inspired. How on earth, we wondered, does a child like this respond to adversity with such grace and perspective? What explains her joy, her effervescence, her maturity?



Something extraordinary resides inside this little girl.

Her story is only one of many beautiful encounters our team made with people we love in the villages of Bundibugyo. Whether it's 300 men and women meeting regularly in addiction recovery groups, 700 people who are served by our mobile clinics each month, over 100 villagers who are now lifting themselves out of poverty, or the 650 families who are now safe and peaceful because of Ourganda's domestic violence program, we are doing our best to keep up with all the opportunities.

We love it when people cheer us on. But it's a lot more fun to be immersed in the action. If you want to be part of the next miracle, **here is how you can help:**

- Phone: Call **360-624-7271**
- Mail: Send a check made payable to Ourganda to **PO Box 874205; Vancouver WA 98687**
- Online: Scan this QR code or visit **ourganda.org/donate**



Scan this QR code to watch a video of Edinus and her family.



Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!