

OUR GANDA



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

Where will those kids be in ten years?



Dear Friend,

The little girl sat orphaned on the drying rack. Her expression looked older than her face.

I glanced around and noticed someone gathering sticks for her next cooking fire while another woman balanced five gallons of water on her head with one hand while holding a screaming chicken in the other. Some older kids carried bricks on their heads while others kicked an odd-shaped soccer ball made from dried leaves and branches toward imaginary goals.

I didn't know the little girl's name, but let's call her Julia. No one seemed to claim her or to notice she was there. I wondered: *She must belong to someone, but to whom? What is behind that expression? Is she hoping someone will hold her? Is she hungry? Afraid?*

Julia wasn't thinking ten years ahead, but a question screamed at me from inside my head: **"This child needs love and food and hope now, but where will she be in ten years?"**

That question haunts me day and night.

On a recent trip to Bundibugyo, I gathered village leaders in Bulyambaya, Sarakihombya, Kakuka, and Bubandi, pointed to children and asked the leaders: "Where will those kids be in ten years?"

One pastor literally laughed. "Why are you laughing?" I asked. His laugh faded. "I'm sorry, but there's not much hope for them." Every village leader answered with almost exactly the same words. "There's not much hope for them."

The pastor explained: "Ten years from now, the boys will be in gangs and many will be alcoholics. A few will escape their village in hopes of landing a job in the city. Most of the girls will be forced to marry someone who doesn't love them, and the ones who aren't will sell themselves to survive financially."

Ourganda exists to change that. To provide a better answer to the question, "Where will those kids be in ten years?" If we can change their future, we can change everything.

Ourganda is working with local leaders to ignite hope.

- Our local teams educate, treat illnesses and injuries, and pay for surgeries so kids are healthy.
- They provide economic opportunities right in their villages so young people can lift themselves up through the work of their hands.
- Teams of volunteers are crushing domestic violence. After Ourganda rolls out our program in a village, most family disagreements are settled with words, not fists and machetes. That means that children grow up with smiles on their faces instead of fear in their hearts.

And starting next month, Esther and her army of Mankind and Soul Sisters members are launching our latest initiative – **the boldest thing they have done so far: Defending girls from sexual violence so they can grow up with dignity, security and love.**

We don't have a crystal ball so we can't predict the future, but with your help, we can create it. Will you consider helping Ourganda give little Julia – and every child in every village – the best possible answer to the question, "Where will these kids be in ten years?"

Please make the most generous donation you can as we launch our "Defending Girls against Sexual Violence" program on October 1. A one-time gift goes so far in Uganda, and an ongoing monthly gift blesses hundreds of children over time.



Here is how you can make a contribution:

- Give online – Scan this QR code or visit ourganda.org/donate.
- Mail a check made payable to Ourganda to **PO Box 874205; Vancouver WA 98687.**
- Pick up the phone and call **360-624-7271**. We can take your donation over the phone.



Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!