



COME AND JOIN OUR HAPPINESS!

Meeting Point International Activity Report
2017-2018



Uganda is an East African Country whose capital city, Kampala occupies a series of hills at 1,190 meters above sea level. This is where Meeting Point International (MPI) operates!





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Meeting Point International

The greatest need of a human being is the need of belonging



What Is Meeting Point International?

“Belonging to a design that is not yours, knowing who you are, knowing that you belong to someone that is having a link out of which you become free.

You can face everything without fear because you know to whom you belong.”

Meeting Point International is a Ugandan Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) operating in four slums located in the areas of Naguru, Kireka, Ntinda and Nsambya. Its main activity is focused on the care of people affected and infected by HIV/AIDs and their orphans.

Why Meeting Point?

MPI offers a presence, a companionship, a point of reference where people can meet and get involved. MPI methodological approach actually consists in proposing an effective friendship, an environment where people are not “reduced” to their problems or sickness but looked at and embraced for their infinite human value and dignity.

The services and activities provided constitute an important instrument for an experience that promotes awareness of one’s own value and enhances responsibility in facing reality as a protagonist, thus contributing to reconstruct a social environment and community.

Why International?

Those visiting the places where MPI is present get impressed by such a peculiar experience. This is the reason why even people from different countries have been personally involved in MPI activities as volunteers or supporters; hence the choice of “International” as part of our name.

Our Mission

The aim of MPI is to disseminate awareness about the essential value and dignity of human life at all its development and maturity levels, through cultural and social activities. Such aim articulates into the following objectives;

- Assistance to the suffering victims of HIV/AIDS
- Commitment in poverty alleviation
- Promotion of Education at all levels



Founder's Story

Rose Busingye was born in 1968 in Nsambya, Kampala. From 1971 to 1986, she attended primary and middle school in Kampala and high school (Sacred Heart Senior Secondary) in Gulu, northern Uganda.

After senior six, a civil war broke out and communication between Northern Uganda and Kampala was interrupted; she had therefore to stay there for six months. During that time she could realize the deadly effects of war: men, women, children suffering and wounded with no one to help them. She wanted to assist people and was frustrated and sorrowful for her inability to do so due to her lack of medical training.

In 1988, she decided to attend Nsambya Hospital nursing school. She took a course in General Nursing and Midwifery at the end of which she graduated as a nursing officer. Between 1990 and 1991 she got a two-year scholarship in the study of infectious diseases from Italy, at the Varese Regional Hospital.

Back to Uganda, in 1992 she was trained to become a certified health counsellor by TASO, a Ugandan organization providing specific training on the care of people with HIV/AIDS, orphans, depressed and terminally ill patients. From June to December 1996, she was again in Milan-Italy attending a course for the mentally ill. In 1992 she started working as a volunteer with patients suffering from HIV/AIDS at Nsambya Hospital in Kampala. During the same year in collaboration with several other friends, she founded Meeting Point Kampala with the purpose to help each person discover the beauty and value of life and to counsel and provide medical care to those who were suffering from infectious diseases.



Rose at an event in Florence, "At the Origin of Gratuitousness"

She was elected chairperson of the organization until early 2000. In 2000 she started collaborating with AVSI, a collaboration that is still going on. In 2002, she founded a new organization: Meeting Point International (MPI), which was recognized as a Community Based Organization in the same year and, in 2003, as a Non-Governmental Organization. It started operating in the poor areas of Kampala (mostly Naguru, Kireka, and Acholi Quarters) with the aim of offering HIV infected and vulnerable people a simple environment where each person could find love. In 2008, she was personally committed in starting the Luigi Giussani Primary and Pre-primary school in Kireka (Acholi Quarters) whose building, now housing seven grades, was completed in 2010. Also in 2010 she was co-founder of Luigi Giussani High School along Kamuli Road in Kireka. She is the chairperson of the board of Directors of both schools.

In January 2009, she became co-founder and chairperson of the Board of Directors (BOD) of Luigi Giussani Institute of Higher Education (www.lgihe.org), whose aim is to help students and teachers discover their value and dignity. To date, she is very active in MPI where she spends most of her time accompanying and educating patients discover their own value. Rose has been frequently invited in international meetings to speak about her work and story. She has been a speaker at various international events in 2017 and 2018. These include; RIO ENCONTROS (Money, Children, Work, Health, Everything is serious. And life?), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), THE LONDON ENCOUNTER 2017 ("The Adventure of the Unexpected") in London (United Kingdom), New York Encounter 2018 ("An Impossible Unity") in New York (USA), and finally in December 2018 in Florence, Italy ("At the Origin of Gratuitousness") where she received with special honours the keys of the city.



Message From Founder



deny this or are not clear, there is a possibility of violence and war in all aspects. MPI avails conditions where adults, youth and children can feel loved and have a link to someone, a relationship, a bond that they can turn to. The secret of everything is this belonging. Inside this, one can discover his/her value and dignity that helps him/her face any kind of challenging situations in life.

It is possible to recognize the value of the person only when we pay attention to something greater. Every support we give is an instrument to tell these persons, "you have a value and you are responsible for yourself."

This method has not been invented by MPI, but it has been proved by scientific studies. Depriving a person of love and belonging causes physical and functional harm. Specifically this may result into a reduced size of the hippocampus, a fundamental cerebral structure ruling the body's response to stress and the evolution of logical thinking as well as the capacity of reflection! (reference : psycheducation.org)

A key lesson we have learnt through the years has been the importance of introducing a person to whom the children and their parents can refer to; someone who loves them and is present for them more than just plainly implementing a project that doesn't touch the very depth of hearts.

In brief, the situation is not only for the poor and sick people but for everybody who lacks a link to someone.

This problem may end up with lasting consequences that shape ones destiny.

Having this in mind, my work in MPI is to create or try to create original structures of the values and meaning where each one can develop and discover himself. We have groups where adults and children are introduced to this meaning and sense of things that surround them. For us it has been a marvellous eruption of discoveries of the wonderful consequences of steps which become a chain of education.

It becomes a place where each can be himself, where an individual can express himself freely and live a constant comparison with his own humanity.

The person who belongs becomes a protagonist because he/she has a face and he/she receives a consciousness that unites him / her to reality; he/she becomes the lord of reality not because he/she possesses it, but because he/she discovers that he/she is made by Another. He/she discovers that he/she is made by a design that is not his/hers.

On 1st December 2018, Rose received an Honour "Key to the City of Florence"

"The greatest need of a human being is belonging, which gives stability and certainty in all aspects of life. Meeting Point International has discovered that with a belonging you can approach others while taking into account their reality and you can truly embrace him/her whichever are the differences that separate you. MPI creates simple environments where each person can find it easier to belong, and experience love.

In an environment where this belonging does no longer exist, where external circumstances

MPI Locations



1. Kitintale

The administrative headquarters of Meeting Point International is located in Kitintale. The Kitintale office is responsible for tracking the children under sponsorship, repayment of loans, distribution of drugs and allocation of donated funds.

The tasks fulfilled by the Kitintale office, especially those concerning educational sponsorship, are particularly important because continuation of activities depends from them. The renovated facility includes office rooms and a courtyard where clients, visitors and volunteers gather and where they are welcomed by the smile of a Meeting Point International employee.



2. Naguru

The Naguru offices of Meeting Point International are located in Katala zone three, Katala drive before the Naguru go down market, Nakawa division. This is the place where meetings, dances, health education and adult literacy classes are held every Monday and Wednesday.

In Naguru as clients come in and out throughout the day, everyone who comes into the office is a friend and has a story to tell. Here women have formed a tightly knit group, but they are open and inviting. New friends are made every day and no one goes home feeling alone.



3. Kireka

Kireka is constantly evolving. The continuous flow of migrants from northern Uganda, mostly of Acholi descent, has given this area its' nick-name of "Acholi Quarter." MPI women in their songs affectionately call it "New York City".

The Acholi Quarter's colourful residents have set up a tightly knit community, somehow unified by the bright blue and white building of Meeting Point International. Women gather there during the day to make necklaces and dance; while other men and women come for literacy classes.

MPI Staff



MPI staff consists of 30 employees working in collaboration with several volunteers to meet the goals of the organization. The Executive Director and the social workers who are directly following up, accompanying and educating our clients represent the core of our organization.

We have also a project officer in charge of monitoring and evaluation, develop and submit new projects and report the activities to donors and a procurement officer responsible for purchasing products and services for both the organization and our clients. They work in close collaboration with our accounting office.

A communication officer, responsible for sharing MPI experiences within the organization and to the public, through the MPI website and social networks.

There are also nurses and a doctor who attend to the medical needs of our clients.

Moreover, there are several nonspecific workers for general works and supporting the staff in their tasks.

A Technical advisor coordinates and trains employees to fulfil the activities necessary to face daily occurrences.

Support to Persons Living With and Affected by HIV/AIDS

Home Visits

A medical doctor visits patients in MPI locations twice a week. Those who need special care are referred to Nsambya Hospital Home care, where some personnel of MPI is regularly present to facilitate hospital services. Sick people are also visited at home and receive medical and material support, with the aim also to rebuild the patient's self-esteem and re-integrate him/her as a full member of the family.

Treatment and Medical Care

There are many organizations in Kampala that serve the sick, impoverished, hungry. At Meeting Point International, the focus is not simply on the problem but also on the person. Each new client is treated with love; MPI focuses on the value and dignity of every individual, ensuring that all needs are cared for while also activating one's ability to feel proud and responsible. Every new client of MPI spends time chatting with staff and other patients.

Anti-retroviral Treatment

In the early days of Meeting Point International, ARV drugs were expensive, and in short supply. The registration book was filled with patients who came in for help and yet couldn't get it because of the then high cost of the medicines. MPI staff watched in dismay as their attempt to treat infections were hopeless without antiretroviral treatment.

As international donations increased as well as scientific advancements, ARV medications became affordable, MPI clients started to fully experience the wonder of life. Today, MPI supports about 600 patients, 23 of which are on ARV medications also thanks to Abbracci Senza Frontiere.

The men, women, and children who receive medicines are generally referred to organizations around Kampala that provide drugs for free or at reduced costs.

The support of qualified help and all-embracing companionship is offered through counselling in order not to leave the sick person alone in front of the fear of suffering and death.

The groups working with Meeting Point International include Nsambya Hospital, The St Benedict Hospital, and SAS clinic. Unlike many patients on ARV medication who fail to follow their treatment schedules, clients of Meeting Point International are educated and monitored to make sure that they take their medicines properly and continually. As a result, patients achieve and maintain great health without stop.

Psychosocial Support

Football, yoga, Acro-yoga and aerobics sessions, volleyball, music dance and drama (MDD) and educational trips are the most enjoyable activities of Meeting Point International. Through these simple activities, women and youth have lots of fun and they express themselves without fear of being mocked. The attention to every detail of the journey, the delicious food shared among the participants, the amazing landscapes, the atmosphere of solidarity, the joy and dances are overwhelming. These are factors that lead to discover the beauty of creation, and everyone feels part of this beauty.

Meeting Point International implements also sports competitions which help our clients to be more active and energetic. In addition, the fact of being part of a team helps the individual to become more confident in life and reduces the risk of loneliness by staying together with other friends.

Whenever our clients get the chance to kick a ball or sing and dance, they feel free and they forget their problems for a while. By singing and dancing together our women and youth get the strengths to face daily toil. The women in Naguru and Kireka also benefit of the physical exercises sessions carried out every week by the youth of New Hope Dance Project Uganda (NHDPU).



Livelihood Support

Educational Support

Thanks to a project funded by AVSI Foundation, Support International, Cesal, Insieme Si Puo' and other donors, Meeting Point International implemented a program linking Ugandan children with private donors who provide educational support. This rather unique project is further enhanced by the exchanges between sponsors and children in Uganda. At least twice a year, sponsors receive letters and photographs from their "supported" children.

MPI staff stay in close contact with the parents or guardians of every child, encouraging and providing support so that each child can develop his or her full potential.

Such involvement keeps every one excited about children's education.

Children send their grades to their sponsors and hope to impress them! Meeting Point International believes that every child should have a good education. Therefore, MPI staff seeks out orphans and other vulnerable children where parents are struggling to ensure them a brighter future. At the same time, sponsors can be pleased of making children smile. In recent years, MPI activities have been focused on the value of the person and this approach has demonstrated to be successful.

The women assisted by MPI and participating in this experience, wanted to give the same education they are receiving from MPI to their own children.

Two schools were born from this desire, thanks to AVSI and CESAL: the Luigi Giussani Pre-Primary and Primary School, attended by 287 children in Kireka, and Luigi Giussani High School, attended by 384 students off Kamuli road.

Throughout these years the number of children under support has been increasing. MPI is also supporting youth under the universities and vocational institution programs.



Children

Nursery	98
Primary	451
Secondary	420
Vocational	83
University	31
Total	1083

Adult Learners

Kireka	35
Naguru	58
Total	93

Sports with Real Madrid Foundation

For the second year (2018) the Luigi Giussani High School has been supported by Real Madrid Foundation, which funded their sports program at the school premises, The 185 students aged between 13-17, have had football training sessions throughout the whole year. Students have been practicing dribbling, shooting, goalkeeping, throw in, positioning, ball control, passing, attacking and defending with the sports coaches.

The program revealed to be an opportunity to improve students' life skills through learning how to play the fair game respecting all its rules, accepting defeat after a loss and being aware of one's limits in such a way that they can work ways to improve both at individual and collective level in the team. Students could apply their skills when they played a number of games against their teachers as well as among themselves. They also played football on the sports day in March, 2018.







Adults education classes are additional programs provided by Meeting Point International. MPI clients and volunteers are taught basic literacy (how to read, write and speak English) and numeracy (so that they become able to count, add, subtract and divide any figure). This helps clients, especially those who are planning to start a business as an income generating activity.

Acquiring new knowledge gives confidence, improves esteem and enables women to carry out their daily work with pride. Communication with visitors coming to Uganda has become easier. English lessons are particularly important for the women living in the Naguru and Acholi Quarters because they have often been faced with language barrier problems. This reduces translation needs in offices and hospitals when they go there. Students in adult classes work very hard to make the most out of their education. They are serious about exams and often request tests to make sure they are learning everything they can. It is a remarkable aspect especially because it is not so frequent to see students so excited and enthusiastic about their education! The number of women who attended adult literacy has increased throughout this year to approximately 120 both in Kireka and Naguru.

Apprenticeship Program



Apprenticeship is an activity conducted by MPI together with AVSI Foundation Uganda. Such an activity supports the youths who have completed school but have no work and those that have dropped out of school for various reasons. This enables them to acquire practical skills in the work environment. This activity enables youth to use their free time profitably, not being idle and end up joining bad gangs. To this end, MPI through its social workers, identifies these vulnerable youths from the local slums of Kireka and Naguru to enrol them for apprenticeship. This activity started in 2018 to support our youth and at least five youths have been enrolled. MPI also commits to follow up and monitor the youth under this program to make sure they are performing well.

Financial Literacy

When the score project (from USAID through AVSI Foundation) started in 2012, two of our social workers Teddy Bongomin and Achan Agnes received training on Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA). They received knowledge on group formations, saving, welfare, loans, leadership, constitution etcetera. Before a VSLA group was formed, the intending members had to be trained by Teddy and Agnes. Having formed these groups, from 2017 to 2018, Teddy and Agnes have been training the members of the VSLA groups on financial literacy on various topics like, debt management, saving management, records keeping, and data collection, such that members are helped to face the daily challenges with in their groups. Further training has been conducted to the members on “Selection Planning Management (SPM) of Income Generating Activities (IGA)” which has aided members without businesses to identify IGA's and to those that already have businesses, to sustain and help in making vital decisions for their businesses. In June 2018, MPI through the support of AVSI Foundation, started an activity focused on monitoring women's businesses in order that they develop into sustainable businesses. This enhanced the trainings conducted by Teddy and Agnes (This activity is still going on) and has gone further to accompany women in their businesses. 16 women were involved in this activity : a business coach interacted with them on issues concerning their businesses. Women were divided into groups according to their business activities. There were 4 categories of businesses involved in this training program which included the poultry group, the paper bag group, the tailoring group, and charcoal business (with only one member). They have been trained together in boot camps and teamwork sessions and also individually with the business coach in field visits. Through the boot camps, women shared general knowledge about their businesses. Women always had a chance to speak and ask their business coach some questions. This provided women with business skills hence making their business stronger.



Alessandro with Achan Agnes at her shop.

Crafts

Women have been producing necklace for a long time. This activity started initially as an alternative to crushing rocks in the quarry, which was a very hard work for them especially for those who were already weak from HIV/AIDS. In recent years, women have begun to develop their activity and not only concentrate on necklaces. They started making other crafts such as Giraffes, Elephants, bags, table cloths, bed covers and many others made from African material.

By making these products, women are increasing their possibilities of earning money. AVSI through the Distance Support program and Support International play a very big role in supporting women by finding markets for the products made by women. This support has reached its goal because the families are sustaining themselves through the products they make. The Luigi Giussani High School was built through this kind of support, that is finding the market for the products made by women.

Last year, three of our women were involved in cow horn training and production with Kimala Production, a company collaborating with us.





Child Protection



Welcoming House

A house was built for the children who have lost both of their parents and have no relatives who care for them. The welcoming house tries to reproduce the context of a family and normal living conditions through a stable presence of adults who have become an effective and educational point of reference for children. Occasionally the welcoming house offers emergency assistance to the malnourished children. More than 85 children have passed through the Welcoming House and currently 60 children are living there. Some are brought by concerned adults or police, while others are found alone in the streets of Kampala. The Welcoming House staff has become a family for these children, by teaching them self-respect and treating them with the kindness of parents. The Welcoming House is a safe haven for these little ones; with the support of the police, we continue to trace the relatives of these children; if available, a family can offer the best form of care for a child. When placement of these children back to their families fails, some of the children are cared for by families in the community.

Amidst all their potential suffering, and lack of means, it's often the women of MPI who volunteer to take responsibility to raise one of these orphans. The openness with which they receive other children who are not even related to them is always a lesson and a sign for us that humanity is indeed powerful!

Meeting point international always ensures that the children in the Welcoming House live in a beautiful and conducive environment where they can grow up happy and healthy.

Meeting Point International renovated the Welcoming House thanks to the help received from AVSI – Assiteca and Support International.





Seeds of Hope: Moving Forward



Rose Busingye with Mr. Domenico Fornara the Ambassador of Italy to Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi at the event

The Embassy of Italy and AVSI Foundation made an event titled “Seeds of Hope. Moving forward”, a fund-raising event which took place on Friday, 9 March 2018, at the Residence of the Ambassador of Italy to Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. This event was meant to raise funds for a group of 16 women of Meeting Point International in order to assist them to become enterprising and self-sustaining. The Uganda Bikers also made contribution to this fund raising.

The event hosted more than 13 African designers from Madagascar, Congo, Cameroon, India and Uganda, who showcased their creations!

Stories of Hope

“We Danced as a Way of Relieving Stress”- Ola Ambrose



My name is Ola Ambrose, I reside in Acholi quarters Kampala but I was born in June, 1995 in Pader district in northern Uganda. My father was shot dead 6 months before I was born.

When I came to Kampala I was not schooling but after some time, my mother took me to a Universal Primary Education (UPE) school that was free of charge near Acholi quarters. The school was called Kireka barracks. That's where I used to school with my big brothers.

My mother died of HIV/AIDs in 2004. Our sister who was the first born of our family was married and after the death of our mother she took care of us since we were suffering and all alone. She helped us cope up with the challenges we were facing.

As a way of relieving stress, a friend of us introduced us to dance. We used to be relieved after the dancing sessions so we continued dancing. We were inspired by prominent dancers like Michael Jackson, Usher Raymond and Chris Brown. We used to watch videos and copy some of the dancing styles. We never had access to dancing schools so we just learned from friends. We used to move far from Acholi quarters to look for friends who had more dancing ideas.

We used to perform around and earn some little money and balance it with other jobs. We had to get other ways of earning some money like learning more of the dances, yoga, Acro-yoga, and some other activities like leadership skills, community-saving, community sanitation.

In 2016, we formed the New Hope Dance Project Uganda. That's when we opened and started teaching the community because we believed we had gained enough skills to share with others so, we started teaching the young people in the community and other people outside our community.

We were doing the b-boy dancing with some few youth and kids who were inspired by what we do. This is promoting unity among young people. At first, when we just began this activity we had a lot of criticism in the community where most parents were against us thinking that we would mislead their children but later they realized the benefit and started to send their children in large numbers.

In February 2018 Teddy who was our good friend introduced us to MPI so we started doing sessions with them as well. That's how we started running the project. She introduced me, my siblings and other friends to Aunt Rose (Rose Busingye). This was through the yoga sessions, Acro-yoga, and health education that we were doing with MPI women. After 3 sessions, Rose called me and she asked me and my siblings to meet her. We met her the following day. We talked about how we lived our lives and how we coped with school. Some of us studied but due to school fees and tuition couldn't go ahead. She asked us to get admissions from schools where we wanted to study. We were all just smiling at each other very happy.

Thank God we met MPI and they really appreciated the work that we were doing, they helped us with speakers, uniforms, shoes and a camera. We really enjoy working with MPI!

"I discovered myself and the meaning of my life" - Nkundabantu Sarah

I am Nkundabantu Sarah and I stay in Kireka near Acholi Quarters. I was born in Bushenyi and in a Muslim family so I was a Muslim. I am a mother of 3 children and I lost my husband in 2017. I was suffering a lot and I was tortured by my husband since he was beating me all the time. I was sick and my body was full of wounds. We had no food and other needs. He was a Catholic and we always fought over converting to being a Catholic. One day I went to my neighbour and told her all of my problems. I requested her to teach me how to make paper beads so that I could get the money necessary to travel back to my village in Bushenyi. She told me that she had also faced the same problems. She spoke to me about Meeting Point International (MPI) and invited me. When she finally took me to MPI I found women who were happy. Some were making beads, and some other making mats. I sat down and I was so quiet and I felt like everyone was looking at me. I asked her what I could tell them. She told me that I could share with them my problems I would be counselled. She told me about a lady called Teddy and that if she came I would talk to her and tell her about my problems and that she would listen to me. Teddy counselled me and told me that I would be fine. She encouraged me to continue coming to meet the women.

And the following week I was seeing a change, my stress was reducing. We were dancing a lot. I could go home feeling fresh. In this way, I started to know the women. I started to become happy and I became stress-free. I still have problems, but now they don't affect my happiness. I got a mother (Rose Busingye) who loved me in a special way and made me discover my value. I joined the community school (a place where some friends in a catholic movement "Communion and Liberation" meet in order to share their experiences and face life in a better way) to learn more about myself until I discovered myself and the meaning of my life. Before joining MPI, I was a nurse but my husband would not allow me to go and work. I was just at home until MPI gave me a job so I started working as a nurse. By then my husband was already dead. I was helping the sick women and their children and their husbands. We go up to their homes and see how they are doing and if they need to go to the hospital, they are referred to the hospital. I was born a Muslim and my whole family was Muslim, I joined Meeting Point International when I was a Muslim but now I am a Catholic and I did catechism at Mbuya church in Kampala. I became a Catholic because of this value which Aunt Rose helped me discover. I want to be near Christ who gave me this value. When Aunt Rose educated my heart, I started dreaming about Communion and Liberation, about the church and priests preaching. I was baptized on 31/3/18 on Easter Eve. I am so happy to become a Catholic and to be the child of God. I would like to thank Aunt Rose for helping me discover my value and the meaning of my life. I also want to thank my godmother Lina for letting me sell Traces (a monthly magazine from Communion and Liberation) because I learnt more about my value from reading and selling them. I sell traces at Christ the King church Kampala. I am happy at Meeting Point International.



Nkundabantu Sarah Orsolina holds the Trophy

Sarah is now happy, she managed to rent a double roomed house

My name is Achan Aida Agnes a social worker of Meeting Point International following the VSLA groups in Naguru. In 2017 after sharing the money saved, I managed to identify one of our clients Ayoo Sarah, who was enjoying success from the VSLA group's activities. Sarah joined Meeting Point International in 2006 after she was tested and found out to be HIV positive together with her husband. She is a mother of 6 children and altogether lives in a family of 8 members. Life in this family was not good because of low income earning. The family used to eat once a day and sometimes went without meals. Her husband lost his job because of a health problem and it was hard for them. As business, Sarah was brewing waragi (a local spirit) and this needed a lot of energy which she didn't have due to her sickness so she could not continue with it.

Sarah joined the saving group in 2013 and went through many pieces of training about the VSLA, but she was not at ease with what was taught. She believed that they were going to steal her money. During the first year, Sarah hadn't saved well because she believed that they were going to steal her money. At the end of the year when the group was sharing, her money was so little as compared to her group members who saved well. In the second year (2014), Sarah decided to move together with her friends. She stopped doubting and started to buy all the shares hence saving well. At the end of the year, she was among the happy ones because she had saved a lot of money, together with her friends. She could easily get loans from the group. Through financial literacy and select planning and management (SPM) course, she managed to identify a business of selling water and soft drinks, setting up a stall for selling foodstuff like onions, tomatoes, bananas, and other products. In 2015, after sharing the money saved, she managed to buy a popcorn making machine. She was now able to get Ugx 20,000/= per week from water, Ugx 20,000/= per week from selling foodstuff, eventually making Ugx 40,000/= per week. She was able to run this business in 2016. At the end of 2017, when they shared the money, she bought a motorcycle which operates in Kampala. She employs someone to operate the motorcycle and collects Ugx 50,000/= from him per week. Sarah is now happy, she managed to rent a double roomed house with electricity and she can cater for school requirements for her children. They are happy because they can now get their basic needs and have 3 meals a day.



Ayoo Sarah with the motorcycle she bought!



“I thought that without my parents, I had no value” Nyeko Rogers

Hello Aunt Rose,

I hope you are fine, back to me I am very fine and happy because of what you have done for me. Yesterday, I did not get time to say anything when we had a meeting with you. But I am very happy that you came for us and yesterday was a really special day for all of us.

I wrote this letter because I wanted to thank you for paying for my school fees since senior one. I studied primary in a school called Gulu Public Primary School and my primary seven in Kasubi Army primary school just near your former school Secret Heart. After primary seven, my life was so complicated because I had no one to help me continue in secondary. I thought that was the end of my education but you discovered me from where I was lost and confused and you took me to school, I thank you for that.

Joining the Luigi Giussani High School it was like starting another life because many things changed. At first, I was very scared of what my friends said about me back in the primary. But I came to know that everyone in Luigi Giussani High School especially the teachers and friends were very happy to see me. This wasn't in my primary school where my friends used to abuse me that I was alien because I had no parents. I lost my parents when I was 8 months, so I don't know the way they looked like but I know that they are happy where they are because you are here for me. I joined the community school in 2015 and from there you taught me what it means to have a “value”. I thought that without my parents, I had no value. But from the community school, I discovered that I have value because there is someone who loves and cares for me.

I will also take this opportunity to thank you for placing me in a good school because Luigi Giussani High School is the best school I have ever seen in my life. I also thank you for making sure that I am at school because there are many people out there who want to go to school but they don't have the opportunity. I would like to end here and once again thank you very much and May God bless and protect you.

Nyeko Rogers

“The body exercise has helped me a lot from back and waist pain “-Joyce Odida



Joyce Odida during the acro-yoga sessions at Meeting Point International Kireka.

My name is Joyce Odida and I am a member of Meeting Point International, Am a very great beneficiary of the Yoga Activity services rendered to me as part of my body exercise and I don't wish to stop it not even a single day because I don't usually miss the sessions. I used to tie a lumber cassette around my back in order to overcome the pain that I went through at the start of my body exercise. The body exercise has helped me a lot from back and waist pain that I used to experience and has also improved the breath because I had suffered for quite long with breathing difficulty. As a testimony I no longer tie the lumber cassette all day and I do that only when am to operate my peanut grinding machine that requires a lot of bending movements but I can do without it all day when free unlike the previous agonic days. I still have hope one day I will do away with it with continued exercise. It helped me a lot to reduce my body weight from 114 to 108 Kilograms within a month of exercise. And finally, I request the Yoga Instructors not to get tired of us and keep helping us with their services. Thank You.



Our Partners

To support local vulnerable communities is teamwork which involves stakeholders, from both local government and the private sector. As an example, Meeting Point International works in close collaboration with the Ministries of Gender, Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to improve livelihood in the community. MPI works hand in hand with private stakeholders, institutions and individuals who provide social services.

This network of collaborators is a key factor to ensure that vulnerable families and their children have access to services available from private and government sectors.

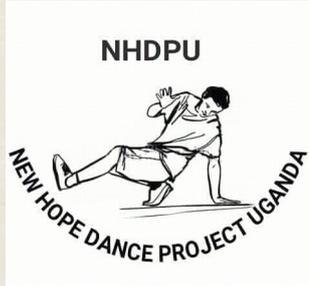


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