

# Teammates For Life Newsletter



February 2016



*Kampala District - Country Girls Team*

## UGANDA



## Happy New Year Teammates!

It has been one beautiful month of hard work; fact finding, group meetings, getting acquainted with new associates and laying down strategies as to how Teammates can help change lives in the most needy parts of Uganda. From December 12<sup>th</sup> 2015 – January 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 we traveled across Uganda to meet our interested partners. Each district we visited portrayed distinctiveness. Our trek started in the capital area of Kampala reaching to the Districts of Nebbi, Arua, Gulu, Pader, Soroti, and Jinja.

We ran basketball clinics for girls, donated basketballs, training uniforms and practice equipment. We also empowered coaches by providing each with the necessary tools to help them appreciate and teach the game of basketball to the girls.

## Staff for Destiny Life Ministry Basketball

We have so many positives to be thankful for, but we also met challenges and observed different levels of needs in most of the areas that we toured!



# Teammates Scholarship Program

Thank you to our supporters who have provided 30 plus children with educational scholarships for 2016. We visited and identified 6 districts throughout Uganda who will each have 5 children participate in our Teammates Scholarship Program. In each district we placed a teacher/coach responsible for coordinating and overseeing the program to insure our requirements are met for each of the 3 semesters per year. These children will also have the opportunity to be participants in our sports program. The fee of \$300 per year, \$100 per semester, will provide each child education, immunizations, uniform, access to learning computer skills and sports instruction. Thank you to all who have sponsored a child.



## Nebbi

Three children from Nebbi District chosen for the Teammates Educational Scholarship Program.

## Soroti

Elizabeth from Soroti District is a participant in the Teammates Scholarship Program. She is a cancer survivor who was introduced to Teammates by an International Rotarian member as vulnerable. Elizabeth missed 1 year of school due to treatments sponsored by the Uganda International Rotary. She is cancer free and doctors say a "miracle," as they originally diagnosed her to live three months. She lives with her mother and continues to be monitored. She is happy to be back with friends.



## Pader

Five of these children from Pader District will attend school this February. Leaving their village and families for the first time. The closest school is in the next district, Kitgum, 25 miles away. This will require them to move closer to school and visit their family and village occasionally.



Children given this opportunity impact not only the future of their family but the whole village. We must not forget in these remote villages the child's absence is the loss of a family worker. This is why each of our district coordinator's responsibility is to visit the children's family and communicate with the children's sponsors on a regular basis.



# Partnerships Supporting Teammates Help Drill Wells



Partnerships are powerful! With the help of our friend's Call to Care Uganda, Calvary Church and Pfizer Inc., we have drilled two wells. One in the town of Wakiso, which is home to members of our Country Girls basketball team and another in the town of Madera.



## Country Girls at Practice

# Education and Sports

Madera is a highly advanced educational area featuring private schools and a new University.

These well sites were chosen based on the advantageous environment providing opportunity for these underprivileged children. The next well site is Pader Village, drilling will start next month.



## Current Basketball Courts In Pader

In Pader (Once a hotbed for the infamous Kony insurgency in Northern Uganda) we were overwhelmed by the absence of basic needs that we had to switch priorities! Before the trip North, our thoughts centered on helping build a basketball court, but their need for water is so threatening that we plan to partner with Call to Care Uganda to drill them a well before we can think of building them a court.





# USA High School Teams Support Uganda Teammates



In November Teammates for Life wrote letters to High Schools in Connecticut explaining the Teammates to Teammates Program. Several Connecticut Teams have committed to helping support the players and teams in Uganda by fundraising, donating uniforms, balls and other equipment. They are also hoping to one day meet their teammates as we would like to arrange a visit to Uganda and share the love of basketball!

## Uganda girls basketball teams

wearing uniforms donated by Platt High School  
from Meriden Connecticut.



## Stonington High School

donated uniforms, balls, and fitness equipment to  
this years Lady Javon's team, who played in the  
2016 Championship Finals!



## Caitlyn Dittman,

a Junior From St. Bernard High School, has  
organized Fundraising efforts and sponsored  
many Ugandan Teammates.  
Thank You Caitlyn!

# Projects and Goals for Teammates in 2016



February 2016



*Left to Right: Teammates members Peter Kasamba and Chris Ochaloi. Arua Diocesan Bishop Joel Obieta and Steward of Sports, Mike Letti.*

Each of the 6 Districts were provided Starter Kits consisting of: mesh ball bags a stopwatch, whistle, pump, balls and laptop computers.

Coaches are now able to communicate with each other and our program leaders. They are required to teach players to also use the computer to communicate with their *sponsors and Teammates from the USA.*



## Coaches Sponsoring Coaches Program!



Teammate coaches and other successful coaches from the state of Connecticut assembled a **Teammates for Life Coaches Handbook** with a complimentary video to help new coaches learn how to address children and teach the fundamentals of basketball.

The Bishop of Arua District has welcomed Teammates for Life's program into the Diocese. Teammates will partner with them in hope of constructing a recreation facility which will include basketball courts. Many groups in the community will benefit from this partnership.



# Summary For Success

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**We intend to change lives by making it possible to get education.**

- Continue providing educational scholarships for vulnerable children and new coaches enrolled in the Teammates Programs.
- Optimize our international communication by supplying Ugandan Teammates Officials with the necessary equipment i.e. cell phones.
- Utilize our partnerships to accomplish the drilling of the Pader Well.
- Fundraising to support the Arua District recreation facility.
- Encourage outreach efforts from our youth groups.
- Spread awareness to create fellowships with compatible organizations.

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## Future Teammates Projects

### Teammates Acquires Land for Academy

We are delighted to have acquired a piece of land for our future planned Basketball Academy. The Rt. Rev. Livingston Archbishop Nkoyoyo of the church in Uganda granted us space to build our basketball academy and accompany his vocational training school.

This is a blessing of encouragement and an inspirational incentive for Teammates. We believe that this facility will help us to nurture world-class talent from needy girls who would never have had a chance at education or playing.

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### Thank You

Special thanks to our sponsors, Lobsterboys and Dealer Consulting Group (DCG), your guidance and advice improved the trip dynamics and our results surpassed all intended expectations.

Thank you for your time and support,

Teammates

