



**Change the world! Get Involved! Become a Friend of Nyaka!**

## **“Barefoot Mile”**

*No child should ever have to walk alone...*

***A student-led event where participants walk one mile barefoot around the track or football field to represent one of the upwards of 7 miles the students of Nyaka and Kutamba walk each and every day in order to attend school.***

Audience: Elementary, Middle, and High School Students

Date: You pick it!

Purpose: To have a nationwide event that engages the hearts and minds of students in developed countries to understand some of the hardships the students of The Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project and others around the world experience while obtaining a basic education.

#### Proposed Outcomes:

- 1) Students will demonstrate an increased understanding of the efforts children in developing countries have to make in order to attend school.
- 2) Students will commit to raise a minimum of \$100 toward The Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project. Funds will be used to purchase school supplies for the students.
- 3) Students will document and share their efforts with other students around the world and the Nyaka and Kutamba students in Uganda through video, photographs, social media, class projects and other resources.

#### Suggestions for implementation:

- Wear purple and green for the day.
- Sell purple Gatorade and green cookies for a bake sale to raise money.
- Raise funds by getting individuals to pledge support based on # of steps taken, laps, or some other fun initiative.
- Challenge your class to underwrite and sponsor a student for a year.
- NAOP can provide class rosters to walk in honor of a particular student.
- Incorporate reading "Swite Joseph Goes to School" into the event for younger students.
- Incorporate reading "A School for My Village" into the event for older students.
- Show the Power of One and/or a PowerPoint about the students.
- Produce a class presentation for parents and other members of the community.
- Encourage schools from your district to participate too!
- Get in touch with your local newspaper or TV station (see attached press release.)
- Create an event on Facebook to share with other students your success and efforts.
- Post it all on YouTube, Facebook, Pinterest, Intagram, Twitter, etc.

Out of a population of approximately 34 million, Uganda's HIV/AIDS pandemic has resulted in over 2.2 million orphaned children who have lost one or both parents. In addition to the trauma of losing a parent, orphans go without many of the basic human needs: food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, and education. While the African extended family has traditionally stepped in to support orphans, the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic has overburdened this traditional safety net. The Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project was born out of this crisis.

The Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project is working on behalf of HIV/AIDS orphans in rural Uganda to end systemic deprivation, poverty and hunger through a holistic approach to community development, education, and healthcare. We envision the rural communities of Uganda able to build strong community and family structures using holistic and sustainable approaches that address challenges they face due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with a particular emphasis on grandmothers. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters around the world, NAOP is able to provide students' medical care, healthy meals, clean water, and more.

NAOP operates two primary schools in two rural villages in Uganda. Our highly trained teachers and support staff are educating 465 children this year, which includes 60 preschool aged children. We are also paying for 191 students to attend secondary school. NAOP is responsible for 656 children's education in 20124! A very unique aspect of our organization is that our schools are completely free to attend and children are guaranteed an education through high school from the moment they are enrolled. We believe this creates buy in from the students to perform at their highest potential. In addition to providing a quality education in a nurturing environment, we include two meals per day, uniforms, books, medical care, and supplies to the students.

As a part of our holistic human rights based approach to combating pervasive hunger and poverty, we also serve nearly than 7,006 grandmothers, through 91 support groups. Having tragically lost their own children to AIDS they are now raising their orphaned grandchildren without social security, health care, retirement, child welfare, or basic housing. Nyaka supports these unsung heroes by providing them a Grandmothers' Coordinator who trains them on practical life skills such as parenting, grief management, gardening, nursing, leadership, and business development. In addition, NAOP provided the most destitute grannies with over 269 new stable homes, kitchens, and pit latrines, as well as a microfinance program where they make goods such as baskets and jewelry that is sold in the United States.

For more information, please contact:

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