

The Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project (NAOP) is giving a hand up to 43,000 of the most deprived orphans in southwestern Uganda. The mission of NAOP is a unique holistic human rights-based approach to ending the cycle of poverty that incorporates over 7,004 elderly grandmothers who care for these orphans.



Out of a population of approximately 36 million, Uganda's HIV/AIDS pandemic has resulted in over 1.1 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.

Mission: 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.

Vision: NAOP envisions 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.

NAOP is an interfaith community that cares, loves, and supports all children regardless of their background. NAOP operates two primary schools in two rural Districts of Uganda and a vocational secondary school. In 2016 highly trained teachers and support staff are educating **466** children at NAOP primary schools, which includes 60 preschool aged children. NAOP's vocational secondary school is educating **104** students. NOAP is also paying for **129** students to attend secondary school and vocational training at various schools in the region. 2016 is the second year that students are attending university, sending **25** students to universities in Uganda and one student to Vancouver Island University in Canada. NAOP is directly responsible for the education of **724** children in 2016.



A very unique aspect of our organization is that NAOP schools are completely free to attend and children are guaranteed an education through high school from the moment they are enrolled. This creates buy-in from the students to perform at their highest. It is working—since 2008 NAOP students have performed among the top ranks of 220 schools in the district! Every year, most of our primary seven students have passed their

exams with a B or higher. Only six students have failed these exams in the last six years but these students are learning life skills in vocational schools or apprenticeships.

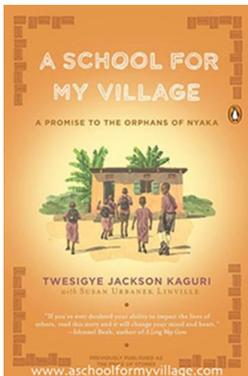
In addition to providing a quality education in a nurturing environment, NAOP includes two meals per day, uniforms, books, medical care, and supplies to the students.

NAOP serves over 7,004 grandmothers, through 92 self-organized support groups as a part of NAOP's holistic human rights-based approach to combating pervasive hunger and poverty.

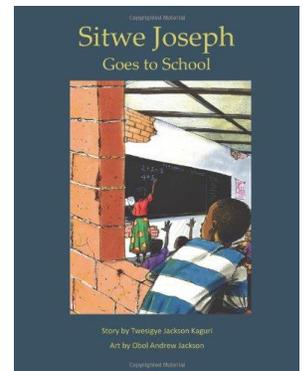
This outreach allows NAOP to help an additional 43,000 children living in these grandmothers' homes. Having tragically lost their own children to AIDS, they are now raising their orphaned grandchildren without social security, health care, retirement, child welfare, or basic housing. Nyaka supports these unsung heroes by providing them economic opportunities that help them care for their grandchildren. Several Grandmother Coordinators train them on practical life skills such as parenting, grief management, gardening, nursing, leadership, and business development. In addition, NAOP has 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 like baskets and jewelry that are sold in the United States.



NAOP has a very active Anti-AIDS Choir at each primary schools; a radio program that brings a voice to orphans and grannies, a farm that produces food for the schools, clean water systems at all three NAOP schools, community libraries at schools, a medical clinic, and a robust international volunteer program.



Founder and Executive Director, Twesigye Jackson Kaguri, was selected a **2012 CNN Hero** for his tireless efforts to educate children orphaned by HIV/AIDS in Uganda. In 2015, he was given the **Waislitz Global Citizen Award**. Kaguri is the author of *A School for My Village*, a memoir that recounts the challenges and triumphs of building Nyaka Primary School. This book has been adopted by schools around the world including many universities and has been translated into Chinese.



Kaguri has also written three children's books, *Sitwe Joseph Goes to School* (2014), *Sitwe Joseph Goes to Worship* (2015), and *Patience Mariza Goes For Water* (2016). These books are inspired by true stories of HIV/AIDS orphans as well as Kaguri's own experiences growing up in Southwest Uganda.

If you have questions or wish to become a part of the Nyaka family, please contact:

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