Children are the catalyst for change and the hope of the future.
ChangeALife Uganda is dedicated to improving the lives of orphaned and disadvantaged children and their families in Migyera and Nabbingo, Uganda through quality education, healthcare and income-generating programs.

“Education is the greatest
It all began in Brick, NJ…

Sitting on our deck at our home in August 2006, Father Lawrence Kizito Kimbowa shared the story of his childhood in Uganda — the civil war, the refugee camp, the Chicago couple who sponsored his education, and his promise to give the gift of education to the children of the rural villages of Migyera and semi-urban Nabbingo, Uganda.

Moved by Father Lawrence’s story, we traveled in 2006 to Uganda and saw both need and opportunity.

Beginning with the sponsorship of 10 Ugandan children by friends with the desire to help, ChangeALife Uganda was formally incorporated in March 2007. Modelling itself after the UN Millennium Development Goals to end poverty by 2015, followed by a 501(c)(3) non-profit classification in April 2008, ChangeALife Uganda is poised to make a difference. Our work has just begun.

Jean Semler
Dave Thelen
Co-founders,
ChangeALife Uganda

“First gift you can give an African child.”

Father Lawrence Kizito Kimbowa
Director
“In the future I want to be a journalist and I will make sure of that,” 11-year-old Hellen Naginda recently wrote to her sponsor Stephanie. “I love learning.” Hellen has the opportunity to realize her dream because quality education is available to her through ChangeALife Uganda’s TuitionForTots-to-Teens Sponsorship Program.

Hellen’s dream is only one story from ChangeALife’s Uganda’s work in 2011. Over the last four years, since our beginning in 2007, many lives have changed thanks to you and others who participate in the Sponsorship Program. Seven students have completed the university or advanced vocational program and are employed, while 17 are attending a university, nursing program or technical school. Sponsorships have encouraged 66 students to advance to secondary school, and have enabled other children to attend quality primary schools. Education, the heart-stone of the ChangeALife Uganda program, continues to bring hope and opportunity for a better life to 275 CALU-sponsored students and their families.

In addition to the educational focus, your support in 2011 led to advancements in the areas of health and microfinance. Some of the most important include: the successful drilling of a well for water a half mile from the St. Lawrence School; building of the new health center in Migyera; expanding our microfinance program to include an innovative children’s income-generating program through animal husbandry; development of a new website and a baseline survey of the health, education, and socio-economic issues and needs of sponsored and non-sponsored families in Migyera and Nabbingo.

Those of you who travelled with us into the communities of Migyera and Nabbingo know that most families truly need our help. They do not have access to clean water and must carry large cans of dirty water home every day to prepare meals and survive. Crowded classrooms with absent teachers are commonplace. Treatments for malaria, respiratory infections, and HIV remain significant health challenges. The limitation of banking resources for the poor limits entrepreneurial success.

Your generosity now makes dreams come true for Hellen and so many others. Children and families are gaining the tools to change their lives through our mission. The seven students who have already completed their University or Technical Training School studies have founded CALEAC – ChangeALife Elites Achievers Club. They are giving back by contributing to the general fund and volunteering.

At St. Lawrence School we now have 18 teachers – 10 funded by CALU – and a wonderful addition of seven new computers. We teach 502 children and our school’s academic district ranking improved significantly. Representative of significant change are the 32 students from Migyera who now attend secondary school. Forty mothers and twenty children manage their own income-generating businesses. Our health center will open and provide primary care, and maternal and child health services. Your partnership with us makes all these changes possible. We are thankful for your enduring interest and support.

Jean Semler
President
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2011

**Income: Donor Base**

Private Donations $221,840
Corporate Matching Funds & Grants 89,993
Schools 32,994
Family Foundations 8,330
Rotary Societies 3,240
Organizations 1,942
Interest 122

**Total Revenue** $358,411

**Expenses: Where the Money Goes**

Education $113,895
Healthcare and Family Development 47,780
Program Development 46,708
Water Project “QuartersForWater” 32,600
Income Generating Projects 26,817
Fundraising and Office Expenses 14,371
Depreciation 653

**Total Expenses** $282,824

Net Assets Beginning of 2011 $100,858
Change in Net Assets $75,587
Ivan Mbazira, age 15 and in Grade 6, proudly shows his report card. At the age of 10, Ivan was homeless, parentless and surviving on his own until the CALU staff learned of his situation. As a result, Ivan was reunited with his aunt and was offered an opportunity to participate in our education program. He was reluctant to take advantage of this opportunity because he was embarrassed to be in Primary 1 with younger children. However, over the last 5 years he has gained confidence, demonstrated leadership and excelled in academics, sports and dramatic arts. In 2011, despite commuting by bike for an hour each way to school, Ivan ranked #1 out of 42 students in his Primary 6 class. In addition, he was a member of the district-winning school performance group. His microfinance loan enables him to raise a goat which has produced offspring that he plans to sell to repay the loan.
An American Student’s Ugandan Experience

Thirteen year old Tess Chandler, a Rumson Country Day School student and sponsor, visited Uganda in 2011 with her family. Enriched by new friends and insights into herself and the lives of children with less advantages than those in the US, Tess returned to New Jersey a changed young woman.

“The life of the kids and their families is very hard. The kids wake up very early and walk or ride their bikes to school no matter how far away the school is from their house. When the kids get home at 6:00 at night they help with chores and do homework. Some of the chores that have to get done are washing clothes, caring for animals or crops, getting water, and taking care of the younger children in the house because the average family has seven kids. My trip to Uganda had a very big impact in my life. It showed me that I am very lucky and I have so much to be thankful for. Every time I drink water, I think to myself how lucky I am for having clean water. When I go to eat a snack or a meal, I feel a little guilty because some kids have so little food. Before Uganda, I hated school and thought I was very unlucky to have to go. In Uganda, I saw that some kids could barely afford school, and some who live on the street could probably not even go to school. After seeing that, I felt I was very fortunate to never have to worry about my education. Going to Uganda has changed my life forever.”

Our Global Education Program continues to enrich the lives of New Jersey and Ugandan students by building relationships and increasing the awareness of both differences and similarities. Our NJ school partners helped their fellow students in Uganda in many ways, including collecting quarters for clean water, sponsoring children and exchanging letters and art. We are so very grateful for their commitment and outreach to our children in Uganda.
HEALTHCARE
is imperative to improving lives

MoneyForMedicine™
A donations program to fund mother, infant, pediatric and adult healthcare, including malaria, TB and HIV treatments, and to remodel, equip and staff health facilities.

QuartersForWater™
A donations program supported primarily by U.S. school students to provide clean, on-site drinking water for students of St. Lawrence School, the health center and their rural village of Migyera.

This past spring, we received the heartbreaking news that 12-year-old Christopher Bakwana, one of our most promising students, died of malaria. His death was a tragedy. It was even more so because the nearest health clinic was too far for him to receive the medicine that would surely have saved his life. Unfortunately, Christopher’s story is not unique. Needless deaths occur daily in rural Uganda because people do not have easy access to basic medical care and drugs that prevent disease.

Thanks to you and your support, ChangeALife Uganda is working to reverse this intolerable problem. Together, in 2011, we committed to fund the final construction of a health clinic in Migyera, just a few hundred feet from the St. Lawrence School.

Several of our ChangeALife Uganda supporters, saddened by our loss of Christopher, donated $9,500 to launch The Christopher Fund to support the construction of the Migyera clinic. Once the clinic is built, equipped and staffed, it will be the only reliable resource in the area for treating the healthcare needs of our students and their families. Infant and family wellness care, and maternal health services, will be provided. After construction, our long-term goal is for the health center to be self-sustaining through patient fees, government support and program partnership with other nongovernment organizations.
News of Gushing Water Brings Excitement and Hope

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors for their ongoing efforts with ChangeALife Uganda’s QuartersForWater Project. Through this project, school children have raised $43,000 in 2010 and 2011!

In 2010, these funds enabled us to purchase four water tanks for the St. Lawrence School, one tank for the health center, as well as roof gutters to collect the rain. While this has greatly improved the quality of life at the school, this system is unreliable as a long-term solution since its success is purely dependent upon the annual rainfall in the region.

Students taking an active role in addressing global challenges helped to collect quarters for the water effort. This, along with a generous grant of $35,000 from Merck, enabled CALU to take the next steps toward a permanent solution – drilling a 510’ deep well. After an extensive hydrological survey, a well was drilled in November 2011. The excitement of finding a plentiful water supply for the school and health center in this semi-arid land, especially on the first try, was indescribable. In 2012, the focus is to raise funds to complete the project – a permanent well, pump, water tank, and pipe line system.

“You have so generously made the dream of clean water closer to a reality for us.”
INCOME-GENERATORS

INCOME-GENERATORS offer hope and opportunity

Improvements in Income-Generation

CALU’s microcredit programs provide an alternative to existing income generation. Training educates parents on how to establish successful microcredit practices and client groups. Nearly 40 families, for a total of at least 280 members, have improved economics.

An additional benefit is the opportunity to learn reading, writing, bookkeeping and profit management.

With increased income, clients expanded their businesses, paid school fees and improved their homes. A simple home improvement replaces a thatched roof with metal sheeting that catches rain runoff for home water usage.

CALU hired a loan officer to implement and manage the microcredit loan program.

The 11 students involved in the Children’s Craft project raised income for school needs. Most will use profits to buy materials as well as simple, personal necessities.

Because most parents are agriculturalists, CALU provides loans to increase productivity. The St. Lawrence School purchases parents’ crops to serve nutritious meals to the students. With this steady market established, parents pay back their loans and increase income. This market cycle in Migyera benefits all – the family economic status is raised, as well as the nutrition level of the children.

With help from the already operating Wekembe Microcredit Scheme, CALU ended 2011 with four client groups in Migyera and two in Nabbingo, consisting of either parents of our sponsored children or teachers. All groups formed a constitution and regulations, chose a name, opened a bank account, and deposited 20% of their requested loan (average $90).

Faith Mbuku, a member of the Kisakyamaria microcredit group, sells milk at the trading center. When buses from Kampala to Northern Uganda stop for fuel, Faith sells milk to the travelers. She received a loan of $42, and paid a month’s deposit of $7.50. Before the loan, Faith could only afford 3 – 5 three liter containers per day; the loan enabled her to acquire 8 – 10 containers and make a profit of $.85 per container. She is very proud of her achievement which she attributes to the project. She hopes to increase sales, reinvest her profits and also sell ghee (pure butterfat left over from butter production), ultimately yielding greater profits.
“CashForCrafts” Empowers Women

Kyakuwa Cissy, mother of sponsored student Sengazi Moses in Migyera, recounts how this program has impacted her life. “I joined the crafts department of CALU in November 2009. First, we were trained to make simple crafts to raise our income and impact our lives economically in a positive way. We are now a group of 12 women and call ourselves BUMU Crafters, which means working together in Luganda. I make baskets, bags, trays and jewelry.

I also try to look for other markets in addition to the US market offered by ChangeALife Uganda. Many baskets are purchased to carry gifts for our traditional Ugandan marriage ceremonies. Some of the materials used to make bread baskets are from a stem of the banana leaf and the dried peel of the papyrus stem.

Through this project, I have managed to increase my income to pay the school fees of my six unsponsored children. The profits I make from the crafts also help me to diversify my income, allowing me to buy feed for the chickens and pigs that I raise.

I am grateful to ChangeALife Uganda because just like it says, it has actually changed my life. It has helped self-sustaining housewives who are hopeful that in the near future we shall live to the vision of the founders and tell our life-changing story.”

In 2011, CALU entered a new phase of its partnership with Rumson Country Day School through The Microfinance Loan Project. With a generous grant of $1,500 by RCDS, the CALU Foundation in Uganda distributed loans ($13 – $90) to 20 students, 11 teachers, and parents. Also, in a reversal of roles, RCDS students were the beneficiaries of a CALU loan when they were given crafts made by St. Lawrence students. By selling the crafts to pay back the loan, RCDS generated not only income, but a profit, which they donated to the CALU kids craft group. This inaugural year proved to be a significant learning experience for students and adults in both locations. Women, children, and teachers were empowered by their successes, while families earned income that was used not only to provide basic needs but importantly, to educate their children.
Where will the road take ChangeALife Uganda in 2012?

EDUCATION
• Increase the number of sponsored children to 300
• Complete construction of a new classroom and paved walkways between school buildings
• Provide computer training and increase communications with students and teachers in US
• Improve St. Lawrence School’s district ranking
• Provide dormitory accommodations to improve academic performance for all Primary 7 students
• Begin “one desk, one child” project and replace bench seating

HEALTHCARE
• Complete the water project: pump, reservoir tower and pipe network
• Finish construction, hire staff and provide equipment and supplies to St. Frances Health Center, Migyera
• Provide primary care and HIV health services at the St. Frances Health Center, Migyera
• Conduct health screenings and treatment for all St. Lawrence School students

INCOME GENERATION
• Strengthen the microcredit fund with $10,000 yearly
• Expand the number of parents and teachers participating in the CAL microcredit program
• Establish markets in Uganda for BUMU/CAL Creative Hands crafts
• Standardize craft products for US markets
• Expand the number of participating children, parents and teachers
• Open savings accounts for all micro credit participants

OTHER
• Open CAL office in Migyera
• Complete a strategic plan
• Complete financial audits in US and Uganda
Buoyed by so many accomplishments since our founding in 2007, we maintain an unwavering commitment to the children and families in rural Uganda, and a determination to continue the vital work we began.