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Circle of Peace International (COPI) is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to ensuring the success of a small, family-run school in Uganda that is a sanctuary for children who would otherwise be denied an education.

COPI supports the school financially, establishes links with schools in the U.S., provides opportunities for Americans to volunteer at the school, and helps the school set up profitmaking businesses in order to become self-sufficient. COPI is run completely by volunteers.

Your Support Means So Much to Children in Uganda

Your donation to Circle of Peace International helps 300 children in Uganda gain an education that will open doors for them throughout their lives. Give the gift of education. Give the gift of hope. Give today. Checks can be mailed to Circle of Peace International, PO Box 44, Richmond, VA 23173, or give online at circleofpeaceintl.org.

MORE WAYS TO GIVE.... THAT WON'T COST YOU A DIME



Corporate matching gift programs: Does your employer have a matching gift program? Many companies are proud to support nonprofit organizations like COPI through employee matching gift programs – corporate giving programs in which the company matches donations made by its employees to eligible nonprofit organizations. *It's an easy way to double your contribution to us!*



AmazonSmile: COPI has joined Amazon's AmazonSmile program! When you make a purchase through AmazonSmile, a portion of your purchase (0.5% of the purchase price) will be forwarded to Circle of Peace International. Go to smile.amazon.com to enroll. *It's simple and costs you nothing!*



Recycling e-waste and buying recycled products through Planet Green Recycle: COPI is raising funds by recycling e-waste and buying recycled products with Planet Green Recycle. Go to planetgreenrecycle.com/circleofpeaceschool to sign up.

Recycle your e-waste (empty ink cartridges, cellphones and small electronics), and every time you do, Circle of Peace International receives a check from Planet Green Recycle. *The more you recycle and purchase recycled products from Planet Green Recycle, the more Circle of Peace International will earn!*

Circle Of Peace International

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015 Volume 5, Issue 3

In Search of the New Cartographers: A Givology Fellowship at the Circle of Peace School, Kampala, Uganda

By Jonah Hetherington

"It's my duty. If we can build an environment where students can develop, where they can learn, where they can be at peace – that is the only legacy that I can ask for."

– Farook Kakeeto

I sat with chills as I interviewed Farook, bursar of the Circle of Peace School near Kampala, Uganda. He was not unlike me — a young man in his early twenties clasp a dream to leave an impact on the world. What separated him from others my age though, was his wisdom embedded in unbranded experience. In the short time I would spend at the Circle of Peace School, the legacy that his family would leave on me would be more than the sum of projects I spent time on with them. What I will never forget is how they are models in showing how anyone can map one's own future in the right direction.

It's my duty to share their story.

January 2015. It was after an inspiring conversation with Joyce Meng, Co-Founder of Givology, while hosting the Western University Capital Markets New York City Conference that I had a strong gut feeling that I needed to get involved with her organization. This would lead me an ocean away from Wall Street to partner with Circle of Peace School near Kampala, Uganda as a field fellow this past summer.

I arrived in Kampala in mid-July after having spent two weeks working as a journalist for my university, building field school partnerships across Uganda. I spent the prior five weeks in Kigali, Rwanda, working at a street children rehabilitation centre. You could say that I felt at home in Africa but that couldn't be true until I arrived at Circle of Peace School to the welcoming hugs and smiles of Farook, Charles, MaryLove and Abraham. Home was where the Bbaale family was.

What could one truly accomplish within the short span of ten days? COPI President Joanita Senoga and I decided that the most pressing issues would be those revolving around the ubiquitous constraint of **money**. What could I do to ensure that the school's operations would be more profitable, more sustainable and more scalable after I left?

I worked alongside Abraham to develop a Plan B after his most recent batch of chickens for the school's chicken farm were simply not laying eggs. We were to cut his losses, and project the sales of starting fresh with a new batch. This contingency plan would ensure that this setback was simply an outlier after a number of years of strong profitability that garnered reinvestment into the school.

My main project would be working alongside Charles Mukasa, Director of the School, to develop a feasibility plan for a new maize milling business.



Jonah Hetherington (center) with Farook Kakeeto, Bursar at Circle of Peace School, and MaryLove Bbaale, Head Mistress.

With guidance from Joanita, MJ and Ben Ebenhack at COPI, we drafted a business plan for this new addition to the school. From interviews with Charles, to visiting the farm grounds halfway to Jinja in the east, to meeting with a milling entrepreneur — this project gave me an all-encompassing look at food systems in Uganda. This venture would allow the school to be in charge of the nutritional destiny of its students while becoming an important supplier of *posho*, a major maize product, to the community. In essence, they could be pioneers in new ways to approach agriculture.

What spoke to me the most beyond these two projects were the interviews and conversations I had with Charles, Farook, MaryLove and Abraham. The unifying characteristic of this family is that they are what I consider to be **cartographers**. Their 300 students often come from backgrounds defined by pain. Poverty. Neglect. Bereavement.

Circle of Peace School creates an environment where the only thing students need to focus on is their personal journey towards truth and development. Education comes in 360 degrees, and that is addressed by schooling where finances are subsidized, where transportation is provided, and where meals are included. The Circle of Peace School helps map the future of the children who will steer Uganda forward, in a space that allows them to be at peace with their present lives. The only legacy I can ask for is that their vision lives on.

I want to thank Givology, Circle of Peace School and the Bbaale family for giving me the opportunity to make a mark on an organization that I believe is the model of how we can become cartographers for the lives of the most vulnerable of us all.

It would be our duty. ■

To read the full story of Jonah's life-changing experiences at Circle of Peace School, log on to <http://bit.ly/1H3G8iV>

STUDENT PROFILE: Shane Segawa



My name is **Shane Segawa**. I am six years old and in Primary 1. I have attended Circle of Peace School from the time I was old enough to enroll in nursery school. In fact I came to school even when I wasn't old enough.

I live with my dad who works for Circle of Peace School. He helps to fix everything at the school and drives the school van. In the morning, he brings students to school, and after classes he takes them back home.

My favorite subjects are math and English. I can count all the way to 100. My favorite book is *Junie B Jones and a Little Monkey Business*. Teacher Margaret reads us stories, which we all enjoy listening to. I want to be a doctor or soccer coach when I grow up.

I like to eat posho, rice, oranges, apples, beans and chicken.

I love to play soccer with my best friends Sharita, Josph, and Gideon. We play soccer every day. It's fun playing with my friends. When I grow up, I want to become the best soccer player. I will teach everyone how to play soccer.

I hope you can help me achieve my dream of someday becoming a doctor or soccer coach. ■

Updates from Circle of Peace School

By **Mary Love Bbaale, Headmistress**



On September 7, we started our third term which runs until mid-December. We hired two new teachers: Issa Kizza, who is an Assistant in the nursery section; and Gorret Nabukeera, who is teaching Primary Six with Ronald Kiwanuka. Her main subjects are reading, English and Luganda.

Parents' Meeting: A parents' meeting was held on September 11. Students had a half day of school to give teachers enough time to prepare for the meeting. We had a good turnout of parents. We're trying to involve parents as much as possible.

Desks: Director Charles Mukasa completed the construction of desks for the nursery section during the school break thanks to funds provided by COPI, which allowed for the purchase of materials.

Monthly Birthday Parties: We celebrated ten birthdays in September. We enjoy celebrating student and faculty birthdays each month! (There were no birthdays in October.)

Harvest Season: During the break, all of the Bbaale boys and Mama Amina went to the farm to harvest corn. Abraham drove the truck, and Charles the van. Their hard work yielded three tons — a total of 46 bags of corn, ready to process for posho. Mama Amina has hired two men who will work with Solomon to clear the land and get it ready for seeding before the rainy season starts.

Maize Mill: Charles and Abraham are looking at purchasing motors for the maize mill thanks to funds made available by COPI. We hope this business can be up and running in the near future. It will provide food for the children, feed for the chicken farm, and revenue for the school.

Chicken Farm: Abraham is preparing his chickens to sell during the Christmas holiday when the best profits can be made. He has placed an order for new baby chicks, which will be available the first week of January 2016. The chicken farm is very important to the school – it provides one egg to every student each week, and is also a source of funds when chickens or eggs are sold in the market.

School Supplies: The inventory of school supplies received from the COPI Board members visit in 2014 has dwindled...and so, we are delighted that board member Liz Jordan and her family were able to bring two suitcases of much-needed supplies during their visit to COPS in October. ■

Abraham, Solomon, Charles, Farook, Elijah and Isaac harvested 46 bags of corn to be milled and turned into posho, a staple in Ugandan diet.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

COPI's 5th Anniversary Celebration, held on October 18 at the Roslyn Conference Center, was a wonderful reunion of people who have contributed to our organization over the years. A big "Thank You!" to board member **Betty Allen** for chairing this event and serving as Mistress of Ceremonies.

Speakers at the event included Susan Higgins who challenged attendees to consider sponsoring a child at Circle of Peace School (CoPS). Robert Schneider, former COPI board chairman, told about the strides the organization has made since its founding, and shared amusing anecdotes from his visit to the school. Pamela Vanais spoke about her two months teaching at the School. Kathy Tappan, a teacher at St. Andrews School in Richmond, spoke about the connections that have been made between her second grade students and the students at CoPS, and the projects her students have undertaken to support their Ugandan friends. High school senior Han Gu came from Alexandria, VA to talk about what students there are doing to support CoPS. Finally, board member MJ Ebenhack shared with the group COPI's projects for 2016 and the ways they can be of assistance that go beyond writing checks.

Our 5th Anniversary was a good opportunity to reflect on all we have accomplished, and acknowledge the many people who have been involved. There have been nearly 40 visitors to Circle of Peace School from the United States; ten grade schools in the US have formed partnerships with CoPS for at least a year; 31 people have served in leadership positions; and 19 families or individuals have sponsored a CoPS student.

Information shared at the event went both ways. Those in attendance shared many good ideas that the board will be following up on. Sale of handicraft items from Uganda was very brisk. For those of you who missed it, we look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Joanita Senoga



Enthusiastic attendees reunite with others who share a love for CoPS.



It's not every day that COPI Board members can come together for a picture! Standing, left to right: Joanita Senoga, Chair of Student Sponsorship Susan Higgins, Seth Johnson, Nakita Rowell-Stevens. Seated, left to right: Betty Allen, MJ Ebenhack, Iria Jones. Not pictured, Tom Wright and Elizabeth Jordan (who was at CoPS at the time).

COPI Welcomes Two New Board Members!

By **MJ Ebenhack**



Nakita Rowell-Stevens was elected to the board in July. Nakita is a people-centric businesswoman with a desire to positively impact lives. She has worked for a number of businesses in the Richmond, VA area and currently has her own copy-writing and publishing business. She has a passion for content marketing and helping local business owners and consumers tell their story in a compelling way.

Nakita has a diverse professional background including experience in human resources, sales, customer relations, marketing and strategic planning. But her true passion and gift is communicating the written word, and she intends to continue sharing that gift with others as she helps them tell their stories and communicate their vision in a meaningful way. Nakita has a MA degree in Education Management from Strayer University, and a BA in Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.



Seth Johnson, who joined the board in September, recently relocated to Richmond to assume a position with the CarMax corporate office. He is a MBA graduate from Ohio State's Fisher College of Business, Columbus, OH, and also holds a Bachelor's in Biochemistry from Iowa State University. Seth spent two years working as a quality control and production chemist in Des Moines, IA and San Diego, CA. During his time at Ohio State, he interned with a digital marketing startup working in a business platform development role, and with a fast-growing wholesale power tool company analyzing past sales patterns and developing future growth

strategy. He spent a semester studying in Milan, Italy to expand his knowledge of international businesses practices, and broaden cultural experience and understanding. During his MBA studies, he was active in student-led organizations as well as building networks between the university and businesses in the city.

Seth's interest in COPI stems from his desire to give back as he begins a new career path. He views his service to COPI as a way he can help build a better community and a better world. ■