



# Nikibasika

Children's  
Development Project

Report to Elizabeth Douvan  
Award Committee

November 2010

## Career Development

In early 2009, the Nikibasika project was fortunate to be selected as the recipient of the \$1000 Elizabeth Douvan Alumni Award through Fielding Graduate University. In this report, we update supporters on how the funds formed the seed money for an initiative that moved our project from largely operational to visionary and hopeful.

-- Cate Creede, PhD, Fielding  
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## Computer Training

## Arts and Crafts

## Community Involvement

## Life skills



*Nikibasika* means “it is possible” in *kinyankole*, and it describes what this project is all about. Nikibasika is the home for 51 “orphaned and vulnerable” children in western Uganda, whom we are educating and supporting to grow up to be self-sustaining adults who will contribute to their communities.

## Enabling Leadership

Up until 2009, the focus for the Nikibasika project was achieving operational stability and ensuring a reliable funding stream to support shelter, food, medical and school costs for the 51 orphaned and vulnerable children in the project. After 3 years of running the project, we achieved that, and in 2009, using the Elizabeth Douvan Award money as seed funds, we were able to implement a more multi-dimensional strategy. Rather than “merely” supporting the basic needs of the children, we initiated a vision-based program aimed at enabling the children to become self-sustaining adults, with strong ties to the ir community, a sense of a broader world and their role in it, and a spirit of inquiry into and capacity for changing their worlds.

In 2009, we began holding career development sessions with the older children, and encouraging them to think about the aspects of their worlds they might like to influence or change. When Joel, who is interested in technology, for example, talked about the underdeveloped infrastructure, we encouraged him to explore how Uganda might improve its technological underpinnings, rather than to assume that he necessarily needs to move elsewhere for a meaningful career. Another child began to explore the possibilities of micro-credit to support some

of the women in the village of his extended family.

Over 2010, we implemented a more tiered development program, with five streams: career guidance; computer training; arts & crafts; household and life skills; and community involvement.

The community involvement initiative is a project called “BECO” – the Beautification and Environmental Conservation project – development in partnership with a local NGO. Through BECO, the children of Nikibasika are working with the local municipality to plant trees in the context of learning about climate change and environmental issues. In addition to beginning to locate themselves in a global context and to recognize their role in influencing significant issues, the children are also gaining local recognition, a profound need for previously “invisible” and stigmatized children.

In 2010, we were also able to initiate career guidance and computer training sessions for the 31 children in “Primary 5” and older, and to introduce arts and crafts and life skills workshops. The Arts and Crafts program is aimed at deepening the children’s experience of their cultural history,

## Nikibasika Mission

### Strong Futures

We believe that the best way to provide sustainable support for a community is to enable the leaders of the future. We are committed to helping our children achieve their imagined futures, by providing education, shelter, food, medical care and housing until they are self-sustaining adults. We will support each of them with vocational training, university or the development of a business, to sustain themselves and be leaders in their communities.

### These Children as a Family

Our focus is on these 51 children, with no plans to add new children to the project. We want each child to have the best chance possible, and to feel unique and loved. When the youngest of this group is grown and launched, we expect the project to come to an end.

### Community Connections

To help the children learn how they can make a difference in the world, we are partnering with community officials to create volunteer projects for the children. We also encourage the children to stay connected to their communities of origin wherever possible, by spending time with extended families and their home villages on major holidays.

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including sharing different traditional traditions such as dance and music. In the Arts and Crafts program, our social worker also works with the children to create plays, poetry and art to express their own experiences, and works with them to make meaning of and heal some of their personal traumas.

Similarly, the Life Skills program is a critical part of preparing the children for an independent and sustainable future, teaching children who haven't lived in a family setting how to do basic household tasks such as shop for food, cook and manage a budget.

Over the next year, we will be adding development sessions on entrepreneurship, and will be initiating a youth leadership program for the senior level secondary school students, where we will provide bursaries to 2 or 3 students each year to attend a youth leadership forum in another part of Africa, with the intention of identifying and supporting the children who will be



*Gabriel Okiror, the Director of Nikibasika, holds a career guidance session with secondary school*

able to influence generative change in their worlds.

The children who are taken care of within the Nikibasika project had the worst possible beginnings for their lives – poverty, illness, abandonment and violence. Our hope is that we can provide an environment that enables this group of remarkable, ordinary people to enter adulthood equipped to support themselves and to influence the creation of a cross-cultural world that has more options than they were faced with. We are extremely grateful to Fielding and the Elizabeth Douvan Award committee for the role you've played in helping us move toward this goal.

*Cate Greedo, on behalf of the Nikibasika Project*



*The older children have each taken on a younger child as a buddy to look after*

# Nikibasika

## \$\$ facts

A volunteer group of four people in Canada manages the project and raises funds. Our Canadian partner, the Canada Africa Community Health Alliance (CACHA) provides oversight and accountability and enables us to provide charitable tax receipts to donors. Our Ugandan partner, Reach the Youth, provides us with on the ground support, acts as the employer of the Nikibasika staff in Kasese, and provides accountability for spending.

### 1 Budget

Our total budget for the project is approximately \$90,000 Cdn per year. Exact costs shift as food, transportation and exchange rates change.

### 2 Funding

We have no steady or public sources of funding. Since 2008, we've been supported for the majority of our funds by individual donors and through two sources: the TriAdventure fundraiser ([www.triforafrica.org](http://www.triforafrica.org)) and Brendan Wood International. This year Nikibasika was the sole beneficiary of the Tri-Ad, which took place August 20-22.

### 3 How we use funds

90% of the funds we raise go directly to the Nikibasika operational budget, with the remaining 10% supporting the core programs of our umbrella agency, the **Canada Africa Community Health Alliance (CACHA)**.

### Demographics of Nikibasika in 2010:

24 Primary school children  
23 Secondary school children

4 Young adults in post-secondary learning: 2 in University, 1 in Driver school and 1 in Hairdressing training.

Staff: 1 cook, 1 matron, 1 social worker, 1 director, 1 watchman

### TO DONATE TO NIKIBASIKA:

Online: <http://cacha.ca/donate>

Make sure to choose Nikibasika in the dropdown project menu.

Mail:

Canada Africa Community Health Alliance  
1 Nicholas St., Suite 300  
Ottawa ON K1N 7B7

Make sure to write Nikibasika on the project line of your cheque.

Thank you!

Cate Creede, Danny Nashman & Carissa Reiniger, Co-Leads

*For more information:*  
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### Supporters

We are grateful to so many people who make this project possible. We particularly want to recognize:

#### **Brendan Wood**

**International**, which has supported Nikibasika with significant donations for the past 4 years. We are especially personally grateful to Brendan Wood and Stewart Borden for their tireless support.

The **Canada Africa Community Health Alliance**, especially Jean-Charles Le Vallée and Jimmy Sebulime, who provide advice and a lot of thankless administrative support on our financials.

The **Tri-Adventure team**, especially Blair Cox, Karen Beitel, Mohan Sharma and Raymond Helkio, among the many others who make an inspiring fundraiser every year.

The **Elizabeth Douvan Award**, from Fielding Graduate University, which provided \$1000 in seed money for the development project we initiated over the past year.