Anna Dove

Anna worked in the community of Igombe with an NGO called Integrated Disabled Women Activities (IDIWA). IDIWA’s mission is: to empower women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations to maximize their potential and improve their standard of live.

Community members in Igombe identified water scarcity and poor crop viability as an area of need. The community was able to grow crops but lack of water and infertile soil caused many to die and the community was unable to harvest the crops.

This project taught the community how to create fertilizer giving them the tools to do so. Anna taught community members how composting works, what can and cannot go into compost and how to use it on their crops. The key activities included two workshops about composting with 25 different people at each workshop. They were given the knowledge and skills to begin composting on their own. They were also given shovels and basins to start their own compost pile.

The use of the seed fund went to purchasing the shovels, basins, and snacks/drinks for the two workshops. The seed fund was also used to pay for transportation to and from Igombe for the community assessment and both workshops.

Future participants can support the project through checking on the men and women to see if their compost piles worked and through spreading knowledge of composting to other sub counties in Uganda. Donors can support the project through the donation of money or shovels to continue to enable villagers to be able to compost and spread it on their crops.

Brittany Gasama

Brittany worked in Jinja with an organization called Anti-Domestic Violence Coalition (ADOVIC). ADOVIC’s mission is to: eliminate all forms of domestic violence from homes and communities through mentorship, capacity building and awareness raising.
Brittany worked on a project called The Youth Empowerment Initiative. It consisted of four weeks of different workshops that pertained to educating the youth of Amber Court to become active members through capacity building.

- The first week consisted of three workshops related to climate change. We discussed the impact of climate change and how it affects the environment, importance of reforestation, and a practical activity. During this week a seedling expert came to give a demonstration of how to actually “plant” the seedling.
- The theme for the second week was beauty empowerment for the female youth of Amber Court. A guest speaker, Katende Jane, helped facilitate these workshops.
- In week three, Brittany focused on workshops about self-expression through journaling. The first workshop discussed feelings and emotions, and how their effects. The second workshop consisted of a practical activity where they were shown how to make journals using paper, string, and a whole punch.
- Lastly, Brittany concluded her workshop series with a theme of incorporating interpersonal skills through contact sports.

Christy Alway

Christy worked with an NGO called National Women Association for Social and Education Advancement (NWASEA). NWASEA’s mission is to: work with women and the community living in poverty and distress to create just and positive change through empowering partnerships and responsive action.

NWASEA currently reaches 3 sub-counties in Luuka district with mediation and sensitization services specific to the land rights of women and land wrangles. The community of 20 current Human Rights Monitors brought up the reoccurring issue of community members not having proper Wills written, which causes many of the land disputes between families. The NWASEA staff also reported the problem of community members from other unreached sub-counties pleading for services. Christy’s work-project established Human Rights Monitors in a fourth sub-county and provided them with the ability to disseminate information and basic mediation services to their community. Information specific to writing a Will was compiled for the monitors and local police to integrate into the community. The training sessions met already established NWASEA trainings so the new monitors and police officer of Bulungo sub-county that Christy worked with were immediately provided with a support network of other motivated individuals. The majority of the FSD funding went towards the initial training of the Human Rights Monitors and the Police Officer for Bulungo sub-county. This project can continue to be supported with increased funds and support for the Human Rights Monitors of Bulungo. The most prominent challenge for monitors is transport funding for mediations and community sensitization. More in depth community sessions could be held pertaining to writing a Will and establishing legal hold of one’s land/property.
Jordan Tucker

Jordan worked with an NGO called Access to Solar Technologies (AST) Uganda. AST’s mission is to: enable communities’ access affordable, reliable, renewable energy technologies and promote the awareness of environmental conservation.

His project focused on creating charcoal briquettes and energy saving stoves. Community members described their need for cheaper access to charcoal for boiling water and cooking food. They shared with Jordan how expensive purchasing charcoal is and that this forces them to forego boiling water completely, which may lead to health issues. Jordan’s project enabled the community members to generate their own charcoal briquettes from local agricultural waste. Once created, the members could utilize the briquettes for boiling water, cooking food, or for selling to generate income.

The project promoted sustainable development through community empowerment and training. Equipment was provided by Access to Solar Technologies initially, but over time the project was expected to generate income for participating members who could then upgrade or replace necessary equipment without assistance from outsiders. Some key activities included identifying a briquette creation method suitable to the community environment, providing necessary equipment initially to enable the community to begin the project, and training the community on the process so they could continue the project without further assistance. The seed fund money was used for purchasing equipment and other materials, hiring facilitators to lead the training process, and field transportation for staff to visit the community and complete the objectives of the project. Future participants and donors can assist the project through enabling the purchasing of more sophisticated equipment that improves the efficiency of the process and allows the community members to create more briquettes, thereby generating more income.

Katherine Solkey

Katherine worked with an NGO called Giving Options to Women (GLOW Uganda) whose mission is to: empower women and youth to advocate against poor health care services through health care rights, education and information sharing to strengthen capacities and visibility.

GLOW Uganda and Katherine worked with the community in Budhumbuli East to develop a skills training and income generating project called Mwiino Akuwa Project (MAP), a community-driven tailoring training and uniform sewing project designed to address community-identified priorities of lack of capital, a need for skills training, and lack of community relationships.

The project had two primary components.
Through the FSD seed fund, GLOW purchased two machines and supplies for tailoring and received an additional permanent machine from the community. The name and project location were also provided by the community, and the first instructor was a community member who helped to conduct initial training sessions at a low cost as an additional community contribution.

Following the first training sessions, learners who successfully complete training will be able to participate in a uniform sewing project, GLOW will approach schools for MAP to sell uniforms as a source of income for participants. They will also receive financial literacy training and be able to approach GLOW for a loan to purchase their own sewing machine.

MAP provided learners with a skill to earn an income and provide a sense of community and togetherness for the learning class through the shared purpose and goals of the learners. The community hopes to expand the project in the future and also offer additional skills training. Donors or future interns could assist the community with expanding MAP by providing additional skills training, or increasing its capacity with additional sewing machines, a sweater-making machine and supplies.

Sarah Jaffe

Sarah worked for an NGO called the Akola Project, whose mission is to: empower marginalized women to transform the wellbeing of their families and communities through economic development.

Mainly administrated by expatriates, the AKOLA Project has promoted eleven national members to staff positions in efforts to empower local women with no education to build professional status. Upon arriving at Akola Project, Sarah noticed that almost all of the national staff members were computer illiterate, ultimately inhibiting their efficiency within their roles. Thus, Sarah implemented a Computer Literacy Training Program, which addressed this organizational gap by providing six national staff members with two, one-hour, one-on-one computer training sessions per week.

This training program has promoted sustainable development by encouraging and empowering women to learn a new skill that they can utilize for the rest of their lives, and paves the way for the organization to be led by nationals rather than expatriates. Key activities of this training included: research best practices in implementing a computer literacy program, create pre-test packets to determine skill levels, meet with each respective supervisor to determine short and long-term goals and objectives, and facilitate the training for a total of approximately 120 hours.

In order to be sustainable, each participant had to have access to a computer, which was not available at the beginning of the program. Therefore, Sarah felt it necessary to use the majority of her seed fund toward purchasing Akola Project a new laptop, used strictly for the purpose of computer training and practicing. Sarah used some leftover money to support the cost of printing materials.
Future participants can support this project by enhancing the training sessions from teaching basic beginner level to advanced beginner and intermediate level computer content.

**Tyler Abbott**

Tyler worked with an NGO called Kidron Valley Ministries (KIDRON). KIDRON’s mission is to: *meet the immediate needs of Vulnerable Children and Orphans (OVCs) affected by HIV and AIDS in Uganda through provision of food, shelter, clothing, education and health care.*

KIDRON is an organization with many departments: primary school, nursery, orphanage, health center. Among the many departments, Kidron exists as a community within itself even as it serves the community around it. Through his assessment of the community’s needs and priorities, Tyler determined that the KIDRON Orphanage Home demonstrated the greatest need. Using the assets within the organization, Tyler and the KIDRON staff established a project with three parts: (1) an income-generating activity to raise money for the orphanage, (2) a student volunteering program to provide assistance to the orphanage, and (3) a community awareness component to gain external support for the orphanage.

In the income-generating activity, a major portion of the FSD seed fund was used to purchase materials to create crafts; the KIDRON staff worked as a team to produce a variety of crafts to sell in the market. A small percentage of the income is to be used to replenish the inventory of materials, and the remaining income is to go directly to the orphanage.

The student volunteering program allowed students in Primary 7 Class to volunteer an hour each week at the orphanage (and receive a free T-shirt for their service) to provide much-needed assistance to the orphanage staff.

Finally, through the community awareness component, the Executive Director, John Mukuya talked with local leaders in the surrounding community to discuss ways that the community may help the orphanage. Tyler helped draft a corporate donation request letter to be sent to local industries to request funding for the orphanage.