

Vuga e.V. Newsletter

Dear Members, Partner and Friends of the Vuga Community,

We are a bit late with our third volume of the Vuga Newsletter. But there is a lot to talk about. While things in Uganda are running well, our new Generation of volunteers is chosen and already preparing. Please keep in mind that everyone associated has the possibility to write a short report by him- or herself. Please contact news@verein-vuga.org We hope you are reading with interest and please feel free to contact us with any suggestions regarding the Newsletter.

New Board of Directors

by JOHANNES

Again we have to announce a change within our board of directors. Due to the requirements of his new job Johannes has to step back as treasurer and will be replaced by Kora. Because of her wide experience with numbers, we are very happy to have Kora back on board.

Of course Johannes will still be working closely with our society and is with no means off the table. He is now working for Engagement Global and can give valuable advise regarding project funding, which can help us a lot in the future.

We also like to remind our recent volunteers that it is possible to be voted into the board of directors and actually desired regarding our guidelines. So if you feel attached to the ideas of Vuga, why not running for the board after your return?

First Seminar of the New Generation

by JENNY

From the 18th to the 20th of march the first seminar of the second volunteer generation took place in Cologne. After every volunteer had introduced themselves to the others, Johannes gave us some information about VUGA and Uganda.

In the evening we watched the Ugandan film "Who killed

Kaptain Alex? " that already gave us a feeling of Ugandan humor and culture. On Saturday, every volunteer should write down what expectations, fears and hopes he or she has according to the voluntary year. Afterwards we presented them to the others.

Furthermore, Johannes told us that he received an email with the decision who of the volunteers is going to work in which organisation. We had to wait many long hours until Johannes finally presented the choices to us (picture from left to right:



- Daniel – Love and care for the child ministries/ Early Learning School
- Lexi – Environmental Women for Action in Development (EWAD)
- Jenny – Little Lights
- Wieland – Huyslinci

During the weekend we got to know what have to be organised before the exit such as visa, the flight or vaccinations. Johannes gave us an overview about the

finances and he told us many stories he experienced himself in Uganda. Apart from this, we spoke about main rules how to behave in Uganda, about 'weltwärts' and racism. Another important aspect was how to behave and live within a host family and about its importance to VUGA.

Thanks to Johannes who helped us to get a better imagine of what we will experience in Uganda and what still have to be done. We had a lot of fun and we are looking forward to meeting again at the end of July in Berlin.

Excursion in Masaka

by TEAM MASAKA

Our volunteers made a visit to Masaka to see the progress of several projects, including the Muliira School. With our support from Germany and especially the support of the Duemcke Family, we were able to support the school with part of their classroom construction. This is what was done:

With funding assistance from VUGA, a German based organization based in Uganda, of UGX 3.850.700 (three million eight hundred fifty thousand seven hundred shilling) has purchase materials for plastering and flooring two classroom at the Muliira Child Restoration Primary School.



It prevents the children from jiggers which used to affect the childrens health. It also reduced dust which could cause cough and flue to both, the teacher and students. The director and the entire school community will ever grateful to VUGA e.V. for making the dream of reducing the jiggers and dust from now at the Muliira Child Restoration Primary School a reality. We thank you and the whole VUGA team for supporting; this important activity. We shall remain indebted to you all.

Ideas for future work

by RESTY

Those ideas were raised in the discussion about future partner Projects:

Regarding the previous mentioned water tank project, we could bring up its sanitation and hygiene spheres of help which are basically software. For example, the vol-

unteers can use the same tank to teach students good behaviors of washing hands (i.e before and after eating, after latrine among others...and proper use of communal water etc). This gives the volunteer experience in interacting with students, and also allows the volunteer to learn more about that subject as they research in preparation for such lessons. The other subject about the water tank could be the volunteers teaching different water sources and identifying rain water harvest -Tanks...

In sum, i mean putting into consideration behavior change for the communities receiving the hardware projects but also giving a good experience to the volunteers as they follow it up with its software, i am sure this can be a good take for the Germany government (hopefully).

If i may use another example, we at little light might want to help our women beneficiaries with growing mushrooms. While the trainer for this might be local, i do think that the volunteer might contribute in ways like finding out what nutrients mushrooms contain, that way we can add it to the packaging, the volunteers can learn how the entire process is done and possibly compare it to other small scale income generating activities in a region like Uganda (giving it a boom to the donor community or learn from it so we can divert...), and could also follow it up with financial skills training...

I think those are more like software spheres that are actually hard for the locals to do, yet they are beneficial to the volunteers as they carry them out with help of research.

In all these such projects, you realize that there is interaction with the locals and it is a very good aspect for volunteers to learn more about cultural differences and appreciate it. And more so, could pave career opportunities for them as they indulge in typical project nuances plus research of such given subjects.

Seminars in Uganda

by TRINA

We had three seminars in April of which one Kora was part. The other two were attended by the volunteers and the partner organisations.

Those two were about Gender Issues and realized by the staff of EWAD, and about Environment and realized by the staff of Huyslinci. We are very grate full for the participation and for all the material and input provided. We will make use of it in future seminars and hope to continue our beginning path of good seminars in Uganda.