



MESSAGES FROM MENTORS AND PCE SUPPORTERS

85% of the PCE Foundation funds comes from individual sponsors and supporters from Austria, Australia, Germany, Kosovo, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom and the United States. To date, we have hosted 85 overseas guests, supporters, and volunteers.

I began sponsoring Sharon 4 years ago.

I first came upon the RGCM program through a work colleague who was travelling to Uganda to visit her Mentee.

Having wanted to sponsor child education in some capacity for many years, I hadn't committed to any organization because the money never appeared to be getting to where it was needed, but rather was eaten away by administration costs etc. I know that the majority of the funds I pay to support Sharon go directly to her and her family.



I know that I am making a difference because I see it in Sharon's smile and in her determination to fulfill her dream, but it also makes a difference in my life. I am so filled with pride and love for a girl and a family I have never met. I know that Sharon in turn, will make a difference in the lives of the young women who come into her life, be it through her nursing or in her own family life.

One day soon, I hope to meet them all, and that will be the happiest of days!

Sharlene G

October 2013, was a great month for many of us.

Nancy Wendel had the great idea of putting 5 singles females, with different successful careers, from different cultures and countries together, to go to Tororo and the Schools in Uganda to meet the brave girls, plus take the challenge of climbing Kilimanjaro with charity purposes to the community. Kora, Cass, Heidz, Nancy and myself, Marta, took this challenge with pleasure. We collected for RGCM Uganda around 3000\$.



We spent a great week in Uganda visiting the girls, understanding the program and taking in as much as we could, from the great community Tororo has. We got to Kilimanjaro's summit thanks to all the people who greeted us warmly in Uganda, specially Flavia Agatha, John Chris, Apio Josephine, the brave girls and the great parents who all together made a great team.

It is a highly-recommended life changing experience. All of them inspired us to think out of the box of new ways of living in the capitalist society we live in. It was great to feel the great spirit that goes around the community, real daily fighters with a smile as a weapon, the lucky ones also with books as weapons.

That was our motto during our great adventure, "books are your best weapons".



We know it is difficult to change culture and we appreciate the effort. It was important for us to show the young generations of Tororo's community that there is another way of living. To be able to choose your own path you must study hard, get educated and never stop dreaming.

Currently 3 of us are mentors of 2 girls and 1 guy, who are working very hard at school. We are very proud of them.

Thank you for giving me so much joy and happiness, I never thought Uganda's strongest virus is a Smile. I hope we will never get cured and will keep infecting as many as we can. Don't give up.

Thank you,

MARTA Rdguez Sanchez



Visiting a place like Uganda leaves a permanent mark that stays with you. Anytime I see a picture or hear talk of Africa, I have faces that come to mind. I see little Miss Betty and her sweet smile and pray for the other little children I was blessed to meet during my visit. I see the Potter as he grinned while doing his work and hope that his craft is making others smile too. I see the young ladies like Faith Mary and their passion for the community and education and know they will do great things and make a difference for their people. Despite language barriers, you felt the love of the community whether that was the hug you received from strangers or the “ya ya ya” you heard when they saw you coming. In spite of the conditions, they felt the need to give a gift – a necklace, a pot, or even a CHICKEN! I’ve been to many countries but never one so welcoming. I will forever remember the people I met during that week in Amor Village.

Jamie Harthoorn

I learned about your program through my extraordinary sister, Kara Lozier. She had the most fortunate experience of visiting you and your program in Amor Village, Uganda.

She was able to participate with the community and meet many of The families and children face to face. She shared her many photographs with me and told me all about the people she met and the program. It is a wonderful concept! The idea



of "education" is the best chance of success for any child. Though far away, I like being able to offer some assistance through sponsorship.

My husband Chuck and I chose to sponsor Faith at the primary school level for just \$20 a month. It means we can contribute to helping her learn and grow. I like that we can see her face in the photographs and know she is getting a chance to have a better life. I love her beautiful smile, vast potential, and knowing we are helping her achieve all that a formal education can offer her. Having the chance to assist in improving her life circumstance is a real honor.

Best Regards to you!
Kimber & Chuck
New York

Our experience with RGCM has been an amazing experience for both myself, my daughter Liv, and my friends the Ratpack.

Liv and I first got involved back in 2012 when we both sponsored a girl - Akello and Agola. They were both only young girls 12 and 13 years old, waiting to be married off by their families. We knew this shouldn't be happening so here we are 4 years down the track and both girls are about to graduate as school teachers and be able to work and educate in their village the importance of education. And we are so proud of them.

Liv went to Uganda in 2012 then we both and 2 friends went in 2013. It was the most amazing thing I've ever done. We took our girls shopping and brought them bed sheets and blankets for them to take back to boarding school as they had nothing like this at all. We took them and brought them clothes - I remember we brought them bathers or swimmers and took them to a theme park where there was a water slide They will never forget this day as it was filled with love and fun. We stayed in the village and I visited 63 mothers of all the girls in the program at the time; they were kind and very welcoming. The small children loved that we took 100's of balloons with us, they thought we were some kind of angels. They even named a baby after me while I was there. But we were just trying to convince them how important schooling was and how bad marrying their girls off was!





I have also been sponsoring Afripads that supplies the girls with a kit of reusable and washable pads for their monthly menstrual cycle, because prior to this they used old used carpet or leaves. And having 3 daughters myself, I know how hard this time can be.

Also in 2013, 6 friends and I (The Ratpack) have been sponsoring Sylvia to go to University and in a short few weeks she will be graduating as a Community Support Worker and will work in her village with the families. This also has been an amazing experience for the 7 of us to be able to share with her. When I went there, I arrived with a brand new laptop computer for her. This was an unforgettable moment when she opened this gift from her 7 mothers in Australia. As of this year, The Ratpack now sponsors Jas and will still continue to help out Sylvia.

Liv Blackwood

Lisa Blackwood

The Ratpack Family

Australia



Wir freuen uns, dass wir Jackline unterstützen können, damit sie in die Schule gehen kann. Wir wissen, wie wichtig es ist, dass Kinder glücklich sind und das können sie nur, wenn sie auch Bücher lesen können und vieles Interessantes von der Welt erfahren. Wir leben in einer sicheren Welt, ohne Kriege und Not. Keiner kann sich aussuchen, in welche Welt er geboren wird, aber viele können helfen, dass es besonders den Kindern gut geht, denn sie müssen alle Chancen für ihr Leben bekommen. Auch unsere Freunde, Karla und Reiner, unterstützen gern Yonina und freuen sich, einem Kind in Uganda helfen zu können. Wir wünschen dir viel Kraft, Ausdauer und Optimismus bei deiner sehr schönen Aufgabe in Uganda. Auf dem Foto sind wir mit unseren Freunden Karla und Reiner in unserem Garten zu sehen. Von links nach rechts: Reiner, Ingelore, Aribert und Karla. Wir senden viele Grüße aus Deutschland.

Ingelore and Aribert

A More Balanced World (AMBW) is a non-profit organization in the U.S. with a strong conviction that awareness and education are keys to self-sufficiency, human dignity, and a better future. When we were introduced to Beatrice in December 2015,

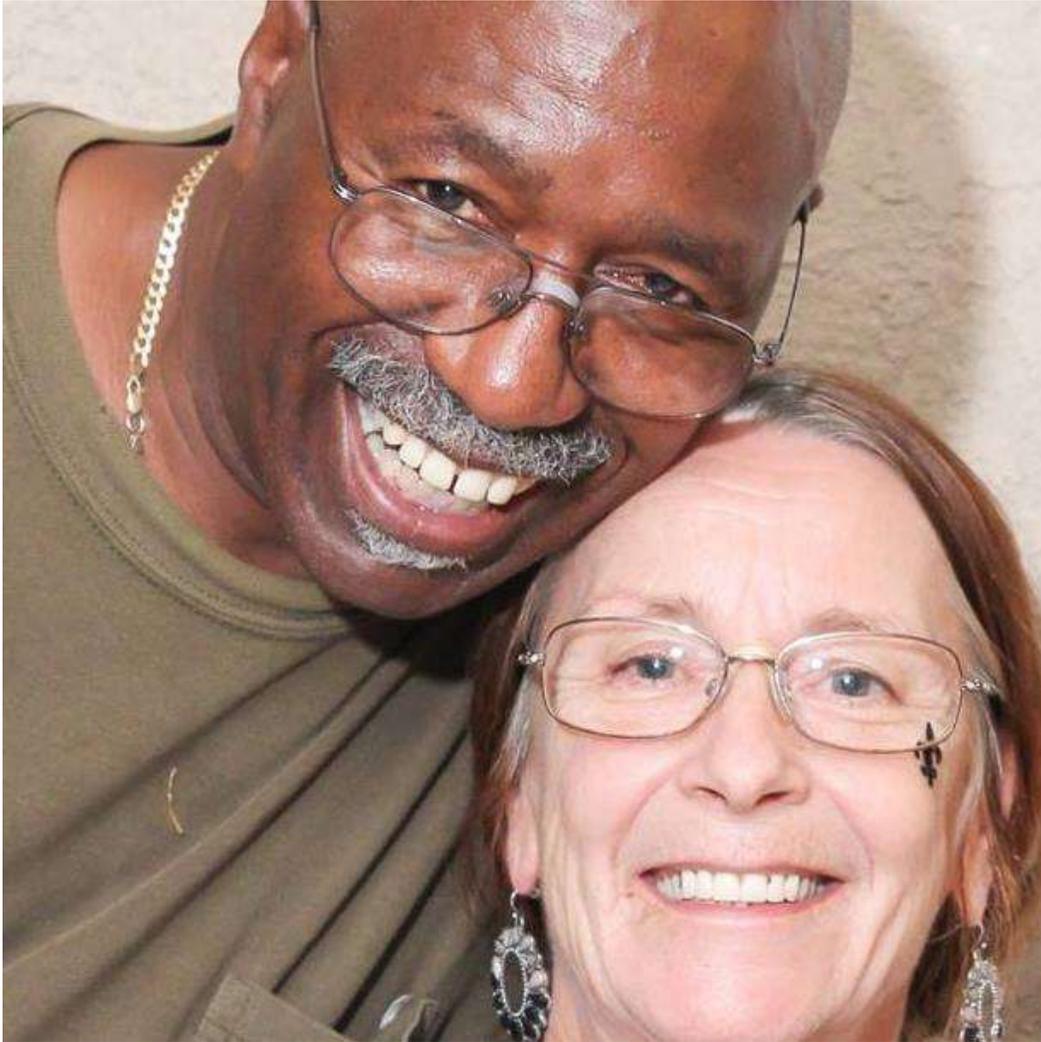


we knew we wanted to support the great work of PCE. We are pleased to currently be supporting five students through PCE. As an organization, we support over 150 students from twelve different countries and have learned how important it is to collaborate with a local representative in the countries we serve. Our partnership with Beatrice and PCE in Uganda has been a model that we wish to replicate in other countries.

We appreciate the regular updates and photos that we receive from PCE. This communication helps us to feel connected to Christine, Joel , Mary, and Lazarus, Samuel, Veronica, and informed of their challenges and achievements. As a result, we are confident that our monthly sponsorship payments are being well spent and that the students we support are working toward a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. The needs and challenges for young women in rural Uganda can be met and overcome with education and AMBW is proud to play a critical role in the lives of Christine, Joel , Mary, and Lazarus, Samuel, Veronica.

Mandy Fazeli

Mary is a very beautiful and deserving young lady and I am honored to be her sponsor. No young women should be denied an education or support. Having seen pictures of her and her family, I am grateful she is under the care of Beatrice, as so many girls her age are destitute and in fear.



I don't know what else to say without getting all emotional and passionate!!

Ellen Sumler

In December 2015, I had the life-changing experience of spending one week in Uganda and witnessing the work of Beatrice and PCE; experiencing life in Amor Village; celebrating the completion of the Portland Nursery and Primary School; and working with 80 of the young women in the Rural Girl Child Mentorship (RGCM) program.

The week was unforgettable. While conducting two writing workshops each day, I had the opportunity to get to know many of the sponsored secondary and university students much better. I was impressed by their leadership, motivation, and work ethics. Through some of our writing exercises, I learned about the hardships many of them have suffered and the obstacles they have overcome. I was overwhelmed by the tragedies they have faced, the huge amount of loss, and the daily struggles that are a normal part of everyday life for many of these young women. I also learned about their dreams and the commitment they each share to give back to their families and communities after their graduations. Getting to know them better was extremely inspiring.





I accompanied the *Mighty Fingers Facing Change* team on several home visits. We met the families of the RGCM students, saw the compounds where they lived and toured their individual homes. It was so clear to me that the girls in the PCE programs are the pride of their villages and that they will help to lift their families out of poverty someday soon.

I had known about Beatrice and her work in Uganda for two years prior to my trip but seeing everything firsthand truly convinced me that she has changed the lives of thousands of people in and around Amor Village. The ripple effect of the PCE programs is enormous. When each girl receives the opportunity to stay in school, it touches the lives of everyone in her immediate and extended family. She becomes a role model, a teacher, a window into the world beyond the village, and the family's hope for a better future.

Kara Lozier

A number of years ago, for a book group, I read a book called *Half the Sky* by Sheryl WuDunn and Nicholas Kristoff. Each chapter described a different place in the world where girls and women were mistreated.

It was a difficult read as the treatment of women around the world is shocking. The only reason I was able to finish the book was that each chapter also ended with an example of someone working for change in that country.



When our book group met, we discussed what we could do to help the women of the world who hold up “half the sky.” Then Julie Thompson, who was a colleague of mine at the time, told me about Beatrice’s project. My husband, Jeff and I decided this was a good way to at least make a difference in one girl’s life. Over the years we have watched as Solofia has grown and developed into accomplished young women who as a teacher will touch the lives of many more young girls’ life, modeling for them that it is possible as a women to succeed. After almost 40 years, I am retiring in June as teacher and teacher educator. It is particularly gratifying for me to know that Solofia will continue the work that has been so much a part of my identity

BARB



Throughout my life, I have had the tremendous privilege of being mentored by multiple teachers. These teachers were patient with me, kind to me, and worked to see and enrich my potential that I, myself, could not clearly identify. I am indebted to my mentors, and credit them with bringing me to this moment in my life. I speak their names with reverence: Mrs. Grochowski. Ms. Collins. Mr. Timmons. Dr. Wong. Dr. Osterling. Dr. Galluzzo. Bassouma. Seeing them here, in print, warms my heart and floods my spirit with gratitude. Again and again, I have marveled at the countless acts kindness they have shown me at various points in my life, and wonder how I might ever repay them. And then I was introduced to Beatrice, and I realized I had been presented with a small way to begin to honor what they had done for me, by paying this kindness forward.



Introduced through a mutual friend, I was captivated at the work Beatrice does, serving as a tireless activist in her press for educational access for young women. Through Beatrice, I was introduced to Constance, a thoughtful and passionate young woman, on the path to continuing her education and seeking a career. To my great privilege and joy, I am happy to fund the educational expenses for Constance, and was delighted to spend several days with her in Uganda, where I got to know, first-hand, her tenacity, her dedication, her humor, and her commitment to learning and growth.

I am so excited to see Constance on her journey, pressing forward to new insights and learning. My hope is that she finds fulfillment and reward in her life, and that if the opportunity should present itself, she will pay forward this mentorship in ways that will be meaningful and transformative for others. She is a beam of joy in my world, and I am thrilled at her continued success

ANITA BRIGHT



I first connected with Beatrice Achieng Nas online through World Pulse in early 2013. I had recently returned from my first trip to Uganda and wanted to connect with girl champions in East Africa. Beatrice's passion and resilience inspired me and made me want to call her 'sister'.

I had the opportunity to meet my sister face to face during my second trip to Uganda in the summer of 2013. We arranged to meet in the parking lot of a petrol station in a busy neighborhood of Kampala. I immediately recognized Beatrice by the radiance of her smile. Bea and her girls welcomed me into their home, and we shared delicious food and stimulating conversation. Beatrice took me to visit several of the schools in and around Kampala where RGCM girls study. The girls were bright and determined and exemplify the idea that 'an educated girl is an educated nation'. Beatrice also helped me organize the first meet-up of World Pulse members in Kampala.

During my next visit to Uganda in 2015, Beatrice took me to Amor Village, her home in Tororo District. Once again, Beatrice's family embraced me with open arms. I met many of the parents of RGCM students and observed the young learners at the Portland School. PCE Foundation not only educates girls, but partners with communities to create positive change. I am proud to know Beatrice and to have connected with so many empowered, rising girls.

JULIE COLLURA



My husband Jim and I made our first trip to Uganda in 1999. I was participating with a medical mission group and Jim was doing construction work on a school. Sometime after our return we received a letter from a young girl asking us to please come back to Uganda to help her cousin who had fallen into some difficulty since we had met her there. We were unable to return but did correspond with the girl (Beatrice). She told us that her greatest wish was to attend school but that she was sitting home due to a lack of funds for tuition. When we learned that the cost was fairly reasonable, we began to help support her through high school. After graduation, she wanted to attend college to study Information Technology. We were amazed that someone who grew up in a rural village with no electricity even knew about IT but we agreed to help when she was accepted to Makerere University. This was more expensive and my sister, father and others contributed to the expenses in an effort to keep her in school. With the limited funds that we sent her, Beatrice was able to complete her education. During this time, our communication progressed from letters to e-mail and we became very close. We are parents of three sons and Beatrice became the daughter that we never had.

Beatrice eventually went to work for “Build Africa”, an NGO operating in Uganda. After several years, she wanted to start a program of her own enabling rural village girls to obtain an education as she did. She was able to match some girls with sponsors from around the world and because of her IT training, she kept the mentors in contact with their students by means of photos and Skype. She did a great job promoting communication and transparency in her own NGO.

Beatrice was selected by World Pulse to travel to the US to speak on their lecture series. She was also chosen to participate in a Communications training program by US AID. She was able to visit us in our home in Kentucky on this trip.



Later Beatrice came to the US for a four month Community Solutions Program at Wellesley College in Boston, and this time her four year old daughter Becky traveled with her and stayed with us in KY while Beatrice was at school. It was a joyous time for us having a child in our home again and she and our granddaughter became fast friends.

I recently made my fourth trip to Uganda. With each visit I have become more comfortable with the cultural differences and better able to understand how to effect change. As outsiders we cannot travel to another country with the idea that we can “fix” their problems, but if we participate in working with the local people with the idea that they can make positive changes themselves, amazing things will happen. My relationship with Beatrice and Becky has been one of the greatest blessings in my life and it has expanded to include family, friends, and some wonderful people from all around the world.

It is incredible what Beatrice has been able to accomplish both in Amor village, and with the rural girls enrolled in the RGCM program with the funds and assistance that she has received thus far.

The girls that are being supported are the hope of change for the coming generations. A girl with an education can support herself as need be and inspire and help others to obtain an education as well. Without education, women have no power or say in the direction that their lives take. I can't stress enough the difference that their education makes and the ripple effect that it may have. I was able to meet with many of the girls themselves in Kampala. They are bright, eager to learn, and grateful for the opportunity they have been given.

I also spent three days in the village of Amor. It has changed incredibly since the last time that I visited in 2009 and is now like no other rural village that I have seen in all of Uganda. Behind her home is a separate building constructed from a shipping container which is her office. Records are kept here and it is as

There is a beautiful field of almost ripe pineapples, an orchard of mango trees which is fenced, and beehives which have been set up under some of the trees. There is a sheltered “piggery project” well started and the pig manure is turned into methane gas which is used for cooking on a stove. A few homes have solar lights which were provided by sponsors. This is huge in a village with no electricity!

All of these initiatives are intended to help support the Portland School (a beautiful new primary school in the village) and also help with the considerable cost of transportation as well as unexpected costs encountered by the sponsored students.

The villagers who work on the projects are also able to use some of the produce to improve their family’s diets.



The changes that I have witnessed are truly extraordinary. Where previously, the future was a one way street to an early marriage and a



life with no hope or options, these girls now have a pathway to personal freedom which they could only dream of before.

These initiatives have brought about a profound change in the villagers themselves. Initially they were reluctant to let their girls attend school. Girls were to work at home or be married off for a bride price. Now they are proud to have a girl in the program. Parents are working together. THEY planted the mango trees. THEY made the bricks from straw for the village meeting building and shelter for victims of spousal abuse. (this building has yet to be roofed due to lack of funds), THEY have organized a parents meeting which is held the last Saturday of every month to discuss general school issues, the problems and value of keeping girls in school and general parenting issues. THEY have organized a microfinance group which meets every Thursday. There is a chairperson to conduct these meetings and everyone has a say.

It is planned that every family will keep ten chickens with the proceeds from meat and eggs to go toward the girls' transportation costs. Beatrice herself has three chicken incubators in her living room and a chick warmer in the cooking area.

Parents now feel empowered that they can ensure a better future for their children. These awesome changes have laid the foundation for girls to continue their education and enter high school.

Back when Beatrice first proposed starting this program, I stressed to her the importance of transparency. To that end she invited all of the student mentors to visit and see what she is doing. An amazing number of them have done so.



I do know that she struggles to find support for all of the girls in her program and is currently concerned that she may have to drop some of the ones who have no sponsors. I have no idea how she supports all of the orphans and abused women that she takes in. She tells me that “God has somehow provided a means”, but I know that she often feels that the weight of the world is on her shoulders. She shares everything that she has, and does without herself.

When it was time for me to leave, the villagers gathered with me and held hands in a circle while they prayed for my safe travel. I felt truly blessed!

If you have any questions or anything that I can help you with, please let me know.

Sincerely,

REBECCA HOWARD
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Sadieville, KY 40370
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USA

I first started communicating with Beatrice while she was still in secondary school, and was a frequent correspondent during her time at the University. My sister Becky and I were simply hoping to make a difference in this one young girl's life. Little did we know how much of a difference she herself would make in the years to come.



In just 5 short years, PCE Foundation has taken 103 young girls (and a few boys) out of absolute grinding poverty, and put their feet on a ladder to a better life simply by sending them to school. It's not an easy climb, not for those who have to do the work at school, or for their families who must do without their help in the fields, or even for us, the mentors, who are funding their education, but someday in the not too distant future, we are going to be awestruck by what's been achieved.

Right now, out of those 103 students, 22 are currently attending universities or technical schools; 14 more are in the primary teachers' college, and another 8 are in nursing school.

Those 44 students are all working to earn degrees and certifications that will not only help them support



themselves and their families, but whose skills will vastly improve the quality of life for their entire community.

Where would they be today if those who are sponsoring them had turned away instead? It's not too hard to guess.

Nearly all the girls would be married off. Many would have babies to try to raise in that same endless cycle of poverty, some would have been exposed to AIDS/HIV, a few might have died in childbirth. Not much of a future.

So in some ways we are miracle workers! And the miracle that we are bringing about right now will in time multiply as these students go out into the world to bring about their own changes. Thanks to Beatrice, I've seen it happen, and now I'm looking forward to seeing what light my own mentee, Susan, can bring to her community.

For all of us with students still in secondary school, their time too is coming. Advanced schooling is more expensive; some of us may need to find partners among our friends and family to be able to continue to fund their education, but I hope that we can somehow persevere until they too have reached a point where they can make a difference.

I know there are many students whose writings or artwork is included in this magazine who do not have sponsors. Some of



these young people could change the world if given a chance, but they need an education.

Perhaps if we share this publication, there might be someone else out there ready to create a miracle.

Shelby Young, USA

HAVE FEEDBACK OR QUESTIONS FOR OUR MENTORS AND SUPPORTERS?

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