

**CIRCLE OF PEACE
SCHOOL TASK FORCE**

**ABOUT THE
SCHOOL**

Circle of Peace School is located in Makindye, a suburb of Uganda's capital city, Kampala. It is a family-run urban school that educates about 200 students from preschool through Grade 7. Classes are taught in English. The School serves students of limited resources, nurturing responsible, hardworking, and disciplined individuals. Despite meager conditions, the school produces the highest-testing students in the area.

Thirty-five percent of Peace School's students are AIDS orphans. These children would have no one to care for them without the school, which provides for all their needs: education, housing, food, clothing, medical care, and emotional support.

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Circle of Peace School Newsletter

W I N T E R 2 0 1 0



Chair Introduces CoPS Task Force

By Bryan Figura, Chair, CoPS Task Force

The U.S. Task Force for the Circle of Peace School is, in its barest sense, a group of volunteers who are committed to ensuring that education is free and accessible for students at the Circle of Peace School. Under the guidance of Joanita Senoga, the founder of the Circle of Peace School, and Ben and MJ Ebenhack of AHEAD Energy, the Task Force was formed in the spring of 2009 and focuses its efforts in four areas: communications, financial development, materials gathering, and recruitment.

The communications committee celebrates the School by publishing a quarterly newsletter and managing the web site, helping to spread information about the school and garner interest. The committee liaison is Chris Kemp and also includes Catherine Clements, Laura-Horne Popp, Iria Jones, Dick Leatherman, and Joanita Senoga.

The financial development committee collects gifts, manages the funds raised, and directs the money directly to the Circle of Peace School. The Task Force is composed of all volunteers, so

there are no administrative costs. Jim Gwin is the liaison for the committee. Other members include Linda Fairtile, and Olivia Reinauer.

The members of the materials committee are Lucretia McCulley and Catherine Clements. Catherine is the liaison. They conducted a needs assessment and formatively coordinate the collection, storing, and shipping of necessary supplies, such as pencils, papers, computers, and linens.

Lastly, Bryan Figura and Iria Jones, the liaison, make up the recruitment committee. They are responsible for recruiting volunteers, interviewing them, ensuring that their experience is positive, and gathering feedback upon completion.

The U.S. Task Force works hard to ensure the Circle of Peace School is successful in its mission to educate any child that comes to its door, free of charge. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering, please contact Bryan Figura, the Chair of the Task Force, at circleopeaceschool@gmail.com.

UR Student Organization Benefits CoPS

By Sarah Gordon, Secretary, Givology Spiders

We are pleased to announce the opening of the Givology Spiders! Givology is an online giving marketplace that connects individual donors with educational community initiatives around the world. It provides a legitimized and transparent method of donating in which potential donors can view schools, projects, and indi-

vidual students in poorer countries and make a safe and informed donation. It also seeks to increase awareness about the unsatisfactory nature of education in poorer regions and global educational disparities.

Givology was founded by University of Pennsylvania students in 2008 and has since developed

into an inter-collegiate and international organization that in the past year has raised \$42,000 for twenty different grassroots organizations in nine countries. Over 1,250 students have received aid. Please visit givology.org for more details. See "Givology", pg. 2



Peace School Student Profile

Ivy Nantume



My parents ran a small shop in Makindye (a suburb of Kampala, Uganda). Mrs. Amina Bbaale used to shop there. When my parents got sick from AIDS, I wondered what would become of me. I expected that like my parents I, too, would soon be dead because I am HIV positive.

Mrs. Bbaale told my parents I would be welcome to live with her and attend Peace Nursery and Primary School. Every month the Headmaster takes me to a clinic to get shots. The shots are really helping and I look forward to a long life. People who knew me before I came to Peace School do not recognize me now because my condition has improved so much. I would not be alive if not for Peace School. My life has turned around.

I am so thankful for Mrs. Bbaale. The family compound has been converted into a school that serves those like me who cannot pay school fees. Members of her family operate the school, teach, and somehow raise the money to keep the school going.

There is a Girls Dormitory at the school but because I am HIV positive, I live at Mrs. Bbaale's house. I like being at Peace School because there are other orphans here. We are family for one another. Even though I don't live in the dorm, the others include me in all their games and activities.

My favorite subject is English. I hope someday to be a carpenter. I would very much like to build houses, schools, and other buildings for people to live and work in.

Givology, cont.

Following the lead of other universities, such as Harvard, Dartmouth, George Washington, and Oxford, students at the University of Richmond have initiated a Richmond chapter, the Givology Spiders. The students who deserve the most credit for this initiative are Eunice Kim, Grace McLain, Emily Marshall, Megan Ney, and Sarah Gordon, with the invaluable advice of Joanita Senoga. Every chapter has specific goals and projects that fall under the wider umbrella of advancing education glob-

ally, and at the University of Richmond we focus on the Circle of Peace School.

Since gaining official status as a student organization in October, we have held a bake sale, which raised nearly \$200 and a community dinner which raised approximately \$800. We also held a forum in which we recruited interested students and spread awareness about our organization. We have lots of projects underway for the spring semester, such as another bake sale, a concert

benefit, and a fundraising dinner.

We truly appreciate all the work the Task Force has done for the Circle of Peace School and look forward to partnering with them in the future. Please contact Joanita Senoga (jsenoga@richmond.edu) or Sarah Gordon (gordon.sarah0@gmail.com) with any questions or comments.

Students Participate in Pen Pal Program

By Laura Horne-Popp

Elementary school students in Richmond, Virginia have a wonderful opportunity to be pen pals to students at the Circle of Peace School.

Fourth grade students of Ms. Danielle Sims, at Harvie Elementary School, and sixth grade students of Ms. Suzanne Fleming, at Collegiate School, wrote to students at Circle of Peace School in November 2009.

In their letters, the Harvie and Collegiate students explained who they were and what they learned in school. Currently, the students are studying about Uganda, including what countries border Uganda and about Lake Victoria as well. The letters also included photos of the students. In the

next few months, the Circle of Peace students will be writing letters too, explaining who they are and what they have learned about the US. Joanita Senoga and Iria Jones of the Circle of Peace School Task Force visited Harvie Elementary in November. Students asked Ms. Senoga questions about Uganda, what a student's day was like at Circle of Peace School, and what people eat for breakfast in Uganda.

Students at Harvie Elementary School and Collegiate School will write a second series of letters to the Circle of Peace students in February 2010 to celebrate Black History month. Ms. Sims and her students are creating a video for the Circle of Peace School which will

show a tour of the Harvie Elementary. Ms. Sims stated "My students and I are absolutely thrilled about our new found friends. Thanks to you and all your hard work in creating the Circle of Peace School this wonderful opportunity is happening."

"Thanks to you and all your hard work in creating the Circle of Peace School this wonderful opportunity is happening."

Task Force Outreach Activities

September 2009

- Sept. 12 - Joanita Senoga presented on the school to several University of Richmond fraternities to be considered for charity mentorship. Tom Wright filmed her presentation.
- Sept. 22 - An article interviewing Joanita Senoga regarding the Circle of Peace School was published in Diverse Issues in Higher Education. http://diverseeducation.com/artman/publish/article_13070.shtml
- New Logos – Evan Wilber, a University of Richmond student, designed the logos for the Circle of Peace School and the CoPS Task Force.

October 2009

- Oct. 5 - Joanita Senoga, Bryan Figura, Iria Jones, and Tom Wright presented on the Circle of Peace School to the Innsbrook Rotary Club in Richmond, VA. Don Stevens of Stevens Jeweler, Rotary Club member, has agreed to set up a donation box in his store and to cover shipping costs to Uganda.

November 2009

- Nov. 26 – Joanita Senoga met with John Mary Lugemwa, the coordinator of Uganda Rural Fund, regarding recruitment of student volunteers in Uganda.
- Nov. 30 – Joanita Senoga and Iria Jones presented on the Circle of Peace School to a University of Rich-

mond student group, Women Involved in Living and Learning (WILL). WILL is interested in connecting with Circle of Peace School alumna, as well as writing to students in the 6th and 7th grades to encourage their efforts to get an education.

- An article interviewing Joanita Senoga on establishing the Circle of Peace School and living in Richmond was published in the November issue of RichmondNow: The Faculty, Staff and Student Newspaper of the University of Richmond. <http://oncampus.richmond.edu/news/richmondnow/2009/11/joanita-senoga.html>
- The pen pal program working with the 4th grade students at Harvie Elementary and the 6th grade students at Collegiate School, both in Richmond, VA, began. They are writing to the students at Circle of Peace School in the lower and upper schools.

December 2009

- Dec. 4 – The University of Richmond student chapter of Givology, called Givology Spiders, hosted a fund-raising dinner for Circle of Peace School providing American and Uganda cuisine.
- Parents of the students at Harvie Elementary and Collegiate School have gathered materials to be sent to the Circle of Peace School, including toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Students gather for morning assembly at the Circle of Peace School



Special Thanks from the Circle of Peace School

The Circle of Peace School would like to extend its thanks to those who have given so generously of themselves to help our school.

Betty Allen
Deborah Andersen
MaryLove Bbaale
Jenny Boylan
MaryBeth Bridges
Dena Buck
Steve and Cindy Burgess
John Cary
Betty Dickie
Ben and MJ Ebenhack
Tom and Martha Edmonds
Brian Fairtile
Tanice Fenner
Lori Ferguson
Mike Ferry
John and Susan Gordon
Bella and Larry Guilmartin
Laurie Guilmartin
Angela Horne
Janet Kyambadde
Meg Keilty
J.P. Laurenceau-Medina
Alan and Ann Loxterman
Sharon Mason
Lit and Mary Maxwell
Annie McGuire
Caitlin McLaren
Missy Mendez
Debbie Miller
Molly Negus
Everette Page
Holly Rodriguez
Mohammed Said
Sarah Ssesanga
Wayne and Leeanne Sarkess
Dywana Saunders
Anita and Bob Schneider
Travis Smith
Don and Linda Stevens
Betty Tobias
Connie Tuttle
Nancy Van Der Griend
Christine Waldron
Mary Cate Walker
George Wickham
Heyden Wittman
Collegiate School, Richmond, VA
Givology.org
Givology Spiders
Niel Stone's Karate Academy,
Brookline, NH
St. Andrew's Church, Richmond
VA
United Methodist Church of Westford, MA

Our best wishes to everyone for a joyful and peaceful new year.

CIRCLE OF PEACE SCHOOL TASK FORCE

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Please make checks payable to **Circle of Peace School**

IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER: NOTES FROM TWO TRIPS TO UGANDA

Circle of Peace School Campaign

Circle of Peace School is raising funds to build new classrooms and to purchase land. The School needs 10 new classrooms to replace existing facilities, a library, a computer lab, a playground, a clinic, and expanded dormitories. Currently the one-room dormitories have two students to a bed. Additional land must be purchased for the School to expand.

Architectural plans have been developed and approved by the local municipality.

Current facilities are not permanent structures. The Ugandan Ministry of Education re-

quires that all schools have permanent structures and Circle of Peace School is eager to comply. As a family-run school, Peace School receives no public support.



Temporary classrooms built in 1994 are in desperate need of replacement.