

BUGANDA QUEEN IMPRESSED WITH MIFUMI'S WORK IN ENDING VIOLENCE



Centre. HRH The Queen Of Buganda Sylvia Nagginda addresses KWF; (R) Atuki Turner of MIFUMI

THIS MONTH

Buganda Queen Visits MIFUMI.

MIFUMI UK donates to Primary School.

John Fisher School visits Uganda

A case of defilement.

Her Royal Highness The Queen (Nnabagereka) of Buganda Lady Sylvia Nagginda Luswata on the 11th July visited MIFUMI. During her two day visit, she toured some of MIFUMI's facilities that included The Haven, Advice centres, women's groups, the school and the Health Centre. The queen who was the guest of honour at the launch of Sure Start - the Young Person's Project, commended MIFUMI for the invaluable effort towards combating domestic violence and advocating and campaigning for women and children's rights.

She was particularly pleased with MIFUMI's model of work that saw a survivor of domestic violence and abuse fully recovered and confident. MIFUMI approaches domestic violence and abuse using the JSEC model. JSEC stands for Justice, Settlement into violent free lives, Economic empowerment and Confidence building. At Kirewa Advice centre, The Queen and Atuki Turner were welcomed with Music and dance by the Kirewa Young Mothers Tailoring School

Jane-Rose Onduri, the first Independent domestic violence advisor at this advice centre, and chair of Kirewa Women's Forum (KWF) welcomed The Queen

and introduced the women's groups; many who had suffered abuse, received counselling and now were being empowered with life skills to enable them start a life for themselves.

Many of these survivors are now members of the KWF, a CBO advocating for women and children's rights in their communities and empowering women through tailoring, micro-credits and the solar engineering project run by the forum among others.

Jane Rose thanked Atuki Turner and MIFUMI for the generous support towards KWF; in identifying for them opportunities that have enabled the women groups transform to positive entities in their communities and for building their capacities as an independent institution.

The Queen urged women to emulate women like Jane-Rose so as to stand up against domestic violence and violence against women so that the world, Uganda in particular becomes a better place.

Jane-Rose brought forward a traditional sitting stool, bowl and turkeys for The Queen as a gesture of appreciation.

MIFUMI UK, BRINGS EARLY CHRISTMAS TO MIFUMI PRIMARY SCHOOL



Pupils of MIFUMI Primary schools in their new dresses with Headmaster (centre) Mr. Onyango Bernard

Laden with numerous gifts, Evelyn Schiller, MIFUMI Director of information and communication based in the UK surprised Pupils and Teachers of MIFUMI Primary School when she visited the school unannounced.

The excited pupils and teachers welcomed the Director to the School Hall where she met the pupils and teachers and informed them on her reason for the visit.

She appreciated the administration, staff and pupils' hard work in upholding the school's reputation.

Evelyn also called out to administration to prioritise the children's educational needs so they can favourably compete with other schools in urban towns when they sit their Primary leaving examinations.

Speaking to the Pupils she encouraged them to work hard regardless of their poor and humble backgrounds so they can come back and bring positive change to their communities.

Evelyn also reminded the pupils that MIFUMI,

with the support of friends and well wishers in the UK runs a scholarship scheme that looks out for bright pupils who have excelled in their Primary Leaving examinations but from financially challenged families. She said many of them could benefit from the scholarship if they worked hard.

Evelyn Schiller together with her husband and teachers of the school distributed the gifts to pupils of the school. The gifts included footballs and clothing. Over 300 children walked away each with clothing that included skirts, dresses, trousers, shorts, shirts, slippers and shoes.

The Head boy of the School Augustus Oketcho on behalf of the school passed a word of thanks to Evelyn and the UK team for their continued support to the school which has not been only limited to scholastic materials.

The excited pupils who could not resist putting on their new outfits, happily waved off Evelyn with a Thank you.

JOHN FISHER SCHOOL RUGBY TEAM DONATES TO COMMUNITIES.



JFS Rugby team at one of the child Headed Homes

The John Fisher School rugby boys team that recently visited Uganda at the invitation of MIFUMI and partner Organisation Africare, left many homes and children with so much to hold onto with the gifts they brought and the time they taken to listen and interact with them.

Sister Mary Lunyolo of St. Kizito Babies Home that the boys visited was overwhelmed at the generosity of the boys, their parents, school and MIFUMI. She profusely thanked them for the gifts they brought the children and the time they took to spend with them.

Guy Seaward, captain of the team, commended Sister Lunyolo for her compassion and love for the homeless and orphaned children. He said, 'we use about

10 pounds for lunch at school and it is humbling to know that this money can feed the babies for a week'

The boys also visited two child-headed homes and donated 3 millions shillings to each home among other things. At one of the local schools that the boys visited and donated footballs.

Guy of the team was touched by the will to study and their desire for an education even when all a school could provide was dusty brick building seating over 100 students per class crouched in small desks measuring about a metre and a half and seating about 4-5 students per desk.

DEFILED BY A MAN I HAD COME TO LOVE AND CALL DADDY

My step-father was a good man, he was the first male figure I had come to know as father. He loved me so much.

I had heard many stories from my friends at home and school about step-parents mistreating their step children and when my mother came to take me from my sister to go and live with her in another district, I avoided and feared this man she was married to. However, he did turn out to be alright.

He made sure I was enrolled in school, he personally went out of his way to provide for my basic needs, he treated me like his own child. He said it was okay for me to call him father. I was 13 and desperately needed a father.

Mother and I were happy.

Daddy told me to stop bothering mother, whenever I needed anything, anything whatsoever. He said I should ask him directly. When I asked mother she said ok; now that he was my father.

However I did not have to ask him for anything; I was happy and had almost all the basic needs every 13 year old in Africa could need. Daddy thought that was not enough, he started buying me presents, he told me I would become a beautiful woman when I was much older, he said this touching my face and arms, I smiled back at daddy.

When mummy was away, he returned home early to spend more time with me and in the evenings he gave me money to go buy him some beers at the trading centre. He took his beers in the house till we had supper and went to bed.

He did this every time Mom was away; one day he told me I was getting older and it was okay for me to taste beer. I told him I had not done it before and mother would not approve of it. He said it was okay he would not tell my mother about it; it would be our secret. In any case my mother probably started drinking at my age. I got tempted and drunk a little. It did not taste as I expected.

On many of these occasions I drunk a little more, dad and I sat so close, he stopped just touching my face, many time he touched my breasts and laughed saying sorry, it was accidental and we laughed together.

My mother he said was not as pretty as me he wanted me to be his girl, only his girl and no one else and if I loved him, we should have sex. I said no.

The next time he bought beer he called me and said he was unhappy because I did not love him. He was my father and had done for me everything a father would do for a daughter and all he wanted was for me to sleep with him just once and I had said no. He was very unhappy. I did not want to make my father unhappy so I allowed.

Deep inside I knew what my father was doing was wrong but I could not tell my mother, he had warned me about doing it.

Every time he demanded for sex and started attaching conditions and threats to it. I started seeing the monster in my step-father. What he was doing was wrong. Disgusted by his actions and threats, I told a neighbour who had sensed something wrong was going on.

Our neighbour reported the matter to a MIFUMI Advice Centre. The Independent Domestic Violence Advisor spoke with with me about what had happened and the importance of us reporting this matter to Police.

My step father was arrested and charged with defilement though the case is still ongoing in court. I am very happy that MIFUMI ended my nightmares.

My mother was devastated but she supported MIFUMI in resettling me back at my sister's place where I wanted to go. I am comfortable and pursuing my studies in the nearby school.

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