

Date: January 2016

Family to Family Number: 15-022

US Sponsor

Name:

Ugandan Partner Family

Surname: Abbo

Given Name: Dolosay

Group: Makimoth

Sponsored Child

Surname: Ratem

Given Name: Grace

Gender: Girl

Age: 8

Grade: 3



School

With your support, all the school fees, uniform fees, and scholastic materials for Ratem Grace have been fully funded since April 2015. Additionally, during those months, teachers carefully assessed your student to determine the appropriate grade level for him or her at their new, more academically rigorous school. The grades/marks for each subject are for the last semester at their previous school; the highest possible score for each subject is 100. There are many factors that contribute to academic performance, including attendance, health, economic security, nutrition, education of parents, etc. The Family to Family Program will be addressing all of these issues. The school year in Uganda ended in mid-December; your sponsored child is now enrolled in a nearby private school for this new school year! Ratem Grace will now experience a higher quality education with full support for the first time. This is truly a life-changing experience for your sponsored child and their whole family. Your support means so much to them.

Grace successfully completed Primary 2 in December at Bright Jonah Primary School in Kayoro. She is now enrolled in Primary 3 at her new school, Prime View Education Center Primary. Her favorite subject is math. Here are her marks from December:

Subject	Marks	Subject	Marks
English	50	Writing	56
Math	51	Music	50
Reading	51	Religion	64
		P.E.	30
		Total	400/700



Partner Family Update

Health

In August, Give Us Wings Uganda staff conducted a detailed health assessment with many of the families. They asked families to share which sicknesses they suffered from most frequently, their beliefs on how/why they were getting sick, how/when they were seeking health care, their barriers to seeking health care, and the sanitation and hygiene standards of their families. A concerted effort will be put in place to continue to educate and support families relating to health, water, sanitation and hygiene. A comprehensive community health initiative led by the staff of the St. John's Kayoro Health Center, a Give Us Wings supported clinic, is underway to support the families.

Dolosay, Grace and all the other family members are all in fairly good health. They "rarely fall sick" and attribute this partly due to the fact that they have a pit latrine, sleep under mosquitos nets and they also have a plate rack with has contributed to good hygiene. They access treatment when needed from St. John's Kayoro Health Center; they have gone there five times since July.

Economic Security

Dolosay has now completed three phases of loans through Give Us Wings' Building Business for Family Sustainability (BBFS) program. She has been trained in record keeping, organic farming training, and enterprise selection and analysis. Her retail shop selling general merchandise is very successful! In addition, her husband Rogger continues to grow and sell farm products like cassava and groundnuts. He can now plant bigger gardens and their income has increased each season. When business is going well they are able to provide some basic needs for the family like buying clothes and providing some scholastic materials for the children.

Parent Meetings

The Family to Family Program offers support and training for the parents and guardians of the sponsored students. An initial gathering in August brought all the partner families and sponsored students together for introductions and an official launch of the program. The enclosed sheet of photos shows the excitement of that day! In November a full-day workshop took place on the grounds of St. John's Kayoro Health Center. Much like Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) in the US, the workshops and trainings featured guest speakers on positive parenting. The parents and students also learned about their obligations regarding attending meetings, communicating with the Family to Family Program staff, school attendance and other expectations. During the many open discussions, the staff emphasized the importance of the sponsored children attending school every day, and not missing school to stay home to help in the fields and gardens. Later in the day, Kevin, an older Give Us Wings sponsored student from Kayoro, who had just graduated from high school, spoke enthusiastically to the families and the children about the benefits of a quality education for the student, the family and the whole community.

Dolosay participates in all of the forums, workshops and positive parenting trainings.



Community Involvement

Community Involvement is a key element of Give Us Wings' Family to Family model. Research tells us that this type of activity among young children (ages 5-14) promotes a healthy life-style and choices, enhances psychological, social and intellectual development (e.g. self-esteem, interest in learning, moral reasoning); it also helps with life skills necessary for a productive adulthood (e.g. responsibility for task completion, reliability, getting along with others), encourages a life-long service ethic and improves the community. Volunteering is a perfect way for children to be welcomed as productive, active and valuable members of their community. Moreover, a benefit of volunteering as a group is that the members motivate each other. So, much like their parents' groups, the children are now part of a group who will support and motivate each other with schoolwork and volunteer activities.



In December, when the school year ended, the sponsored children gathered together for their first Community Involvement activity. They were equipped with gloves, hats and t-shirts that featured the Give Us Wings logo and the words "I am Proud to Support my Community" printed on the front. They then split into two groups.

The children of members of the Hera Women's Group participated in cleaning up the Bison Slum area where they live. Along with adult leaders, they spent time cleaning and sweeping around the rubbish pit area.

Grace and the other children of members of the Kayoro groups (Tekere, Makimoth, Katonda Mbera and Afwoyo Were) worked together with adult leaders to clear grass and trash away from the water source that had become overgrown and caused the water to stagnate. The children worked hard to clear the bushes and open up the drainage system.

Afterward, Grace and all the children gathered at the grounds of the St. John's Kayoro Health Center for a celebration with games (like soccer and sack races), lunch and a piece of Christmas cake (the first piece of cake for many of the children!). The community involvement and celebration activities that day caught the admiring attention of many people in the community. The children and the adult leaders will plan their next community involvement activity for the next school holiday break. There will likely be two such activities per year.

Additional Comments from the Family

When Dolosay heard the good news of your sponsorship she said, "I felt so happy because my child had gotten a sponsor, I even went to church to thank God." Grace was also very happy.

Please be sure to read the enclosed letter and enjoy the pictures she drew for you!