



MICHIGAN *Builder*

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Kiwasssee Kiwanis Club Of Midland

“BIG PROJECT”



AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION, KIWASSEE MEMBERS CHOSE THE ACT UGANDA (AGAPE COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION) HEAL (HEALTH IS ELEMENTAL TO ALL LIFE) PROGRAM TO RECEIVE THE \$5,000 GRANT.

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In 2015, Kiwasssee Kiwanis of Midland's Board of Directors voted to allow surplus project account funds be given to a Club-selected "Big Project".

ACT serves the southwestern Sub County of Muko in Uganda, East Africa. Muko has approximately 39,000 villagers, and living conditions are indicative of the extreme poverty shared by children and families. Access to health care programs for individuals and communities is limited because regions such as Muko are isolated.

Kiwasssee Kiwanis's \$5,000 grant provided startup costs for the first year, including salary for a HEAL Manager, stipends for 15 HEAL volunteer Health Promotion Workers, team training and materials.

The focus of HEAL is to provide organizational support while teaching villagers to make their own health decisions to improve individual and village living conditions. These decisions could be health specific (malaria, alcoholism) or social/behavioral-related (spousal abuse, child abuse, teen pregnancy).

Having a local mentor/organizer/leader for HEAL is critical to the success of the program. His job is to coordinate village dialogues and the other 14 volunteer Health Promotion Workers to encourage villagers to discuss, critique, organize, and implement, with their own village resources and support, the plans to improve the health of their villages. ACT Uganda's programs are unique because of these input and decision making powers given to the local people.

Some of their successes that have been reported are:

Villagers have started savings groups; sanitation is improved through toilet construction and boiling water for drinking; people now sleep under mosquito nets; villagers also now drink boiled water; Villagers have also started growing of local vegetables; soil erosion controlled through construction of water trenches.