With support from the Stephen Lewis Foundation, ROTOM is implementing the ‘ROTOM Grandmothers’ Housing Project.’ The goal of this project is to improve the living conditions of in the households of grandmothers affected by HIV and AIDS.

The project will improve housing conditions for the households of 30 grandmothers by building a 28ft x 14ft house for each of them. The house will have 2 bedrooms, living space plus a bathroom and kitchen/store area. One bedroom will be for the grandmother and the other for her grandchildren.

They will also have access to clean and safe water through the installation of a 1000 liter tank to harvest rain water. To improve sanitation, we are also constructing a latrine and shower stall for each new home.

The project will also enhance ROTOM’s capacity to continuously support grannies in acquiring safe and secure housing by:

- Purchasing land where households of landless grandmothers and widows can be resettled.
- Investing in the purchase of a tipper truck that will enable ROTOM to provide transportation for building materials for grannies to acquire housing even after the project is complete. In addition, the truck will also help in the ongoing construction of ROTOM center.

**Expected impact of the project:**

We anticipate that the housing project will lead to a general improvement in the standard of living of grandmothers and the grandchildren under their care. Specifically it will lead to improved health for all concerned as a result of secure and safe housing as well as giving them access to clean water and sanitation.

This project will also result in improved income and food security in each of the grandmother’s households. Healthy grannies and children will be more productive and will be able to grow more food.

**ROTOM Senior Sponsorship!**

For only US$ 30, Euro 25 or CDN $30 a month, you can sponsor a senior in Uganda to:

- Hear a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Participate in regular Christian support fellowship
- Receive weekly home visits from volunteer counselors.
- Receive free regular medical screening and treatment.
- Receive a regular hot and nutritious meal.
- Access safe and healthy water and housing

Every year, as a sponsor, you will receive a photo, update report and two letters from the senior you sponsor.
In ROTOM’s ministry to older persons, access to clean and safe water is a key strategy to improving their health. Over the years, this has been done through supporting older persons in their efforts to harvest and purify rain water. This year this strategy has received a major boost. The boost came from:

1. Christmas gifts from ROTOM older persons sponsors in USA, Germany, Canada and Uganda as well as
2. Water and Sanitation Project support from the Uganda Health Marketing Group (UHMG).

As a Christmas gift for 2009, sponsors of older persons in our senior sponsorship program were encouraged to donate the equivalent of USD 45 for the installation of a rain water harvesting system. This system involves the installation of a 250 liter plastic barrel, a 12 ft gutter installed on the tin roof, along with the provision of monthly Aqua safe tablets to purify the harvested water. Our sponsors responded generously and with their support, over 200 older persons have been supported with a rain water harvesting systems since January 2010.

With support from the UHMG we have distributed Aqua Safe water purifying tablets and 20 liter drinking water storage Jerry Cans to 6000 households in Mukono district. These include over 2000 households of older persons.

In response to landslides and floods that hit Kabale district two months ago, ROTOM is building 4 protected water springs in the villages of Wacheba, Kandago and Butare of Bukinda sub-county district. These protected springs will provide clean water to over 1400 households.

It is anticipated that the above initiatives will improve access to clean water for drinking, cooking and washing by older persons and other persons in the communities in which they live. These improvements will reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases and improve the health of older persons, their households and their communities.

Above and below: Older persons receiving water holding tanks from ROTOM in may this year.

Water is Life

Kenneth E Mugayehwenkyi
In 2005, Elizabeth Kiryokya the 1st senior to be supported under ROTOM asked me for a goat to rear. I figured since Elizabeth loved animals, it was a good form of occupational therapy. I shared her need with her sponsors who gave her the money for two goats. In a short time, I realized that rearing goats was not just a hobby for Elizabeth but an easy and reliable source of income. In less than a year, Elizabeth’s goats had multiplied to 4 and she was able to sell 2 of her goats and buy other personal needs. This opened my eyes to the economic potential in goats and other small animals. In December of 2006, I gave goats to 14 other older persons in Mukono. The results were impressive.

In 2007, I asked for and received a grant for goats from the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) to be given to 150 grannies in Kabale. These goats produced and multiplied 2, 3, and 4 fold. By the end of 2009, each of the older persons that had received a goat had 4 or 5 goats.

We then asked those who had received goats in 2007 to share with other grannies who had not received. Through the sharing exercise, 76 other grannies received goats. Theirs too have multiplied and it is estimated there are over 700 goats among the supported grannies. Their economies have grown 4 fold as result. Some have sold a few of their goats to buy other family needs.

During my visit in the 2nd week of July 2010, I learned that Kabega Gladys sold a goat at 25 USD and has 3 left. Florence Kakibinge has so far sold 3 goats, each at 35USD and has 3 left. Both used the funds to buy clothes for children in their households as well as other household needs. This is so with many other grannies. They now have an asset to sell when they have a need. More importantly they keep some of their goats to keep producing for future sale. The seed of one goat bought at USD 30 three years ago has increased the economic assets of grannies more than 4 fold. The seed has sprouted, and is bearing fruit.

From January to June 2010, ROTOM’s Evangelism team carried out 200 evangelistic activities in 4 rural villages, 4 rural schools and the Batwa communities in Kisoro, reaching a total of 34,547 people, of whom, 2,364 received Christ as a their personal savior.

The activities included:
- Door to door preaching in the villages
- Open air meetings in the villages.
- Medical outreach in the villages.
- HIV/ AIDS awareness, counseling and testing.
- Bible study classes
- Prayer Meetings for volunteers
- Jesus film showing
- Healing and deliverance prayers
- Home visitations
- Sex education in the schools
- Weekly preaching in the schools

The Jesus film was the most efficient media used in evangelism, attracting crowds and drawing many to Christ.
Consider !!!!!!!

Please consider contributing to our fund for needy older persons on the waiting list. At any one time we have between 30-50 older persons waiting for a sponsor. These older persons are either those that have just been screened but have not yet been sponsored or those whose sponsor is unable to continue support for one reason or another and they are still waiting for us to find them a new sponsor.

Kenneth E Mugyehwenkyi

Older Persons living dignified and fulfilled lives in Jesus name!

The resulting savings in the medical expenses category will be used for other needs. In addition, these changes will lead to improved school attendance and achievement of the grandchildren. Healthy children have better school attendance which will improve their performance. With water collection tanks at home, children will not have to go long distances for water which in turn may have caused truancy in the past.

Safe and secure housing brings a sense of security and belonging to their homes that will trigger other developments in the grandmothers households such as freedom to pursue vocational studies that will equip the grandchildren to be productive in their communities or giving the grandmothers time necessary to engage in small home based businesses that will generate income.

Participation of Grannies Households:
Grannies and their families have contributed to the project in the form of land on which the houses are being built as well as providing unskilled labor for the project. In addition, each household has been asked to make a contribution equivalent to UGX 100,000/CAD 54/USD 50/ Euro 40. This contribution can be made in cash or in locally available materials such as stones etc.

We anticipate that the housing project will lead to a general improvement in the standard of living of grandmothers and the grandchildren under their care.