

# INTERNATIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

PROJECT 1206



*Cross International*

*Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope in the Name of Jesus*

# Empowering Young Women

— Uganda —



For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10



## We are a ministry

that serves the poorest of the poor internationally by channeling aid through existing churches or church-based ministries, cost-effectively helping the poor while advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify him in Heaven and on earth.





## Project Synopsis

### Description

This Christian project seeks to rescue young girls from dangerous and damaging influences. Many of the girls have little family support and some are even orphans, but all are in need of a place where they can gain self-confidence and build toward a promising future.

### Location

Kampala is the capital city of the East African nation of Uganda.

### Project Goal

To empower girls to believe in themselves, prepare for careers and develop a personal relationship with the Lord, saving them from a life of drug abuse, prostitution and poverty.

### Cost

**\$11,000** from Cross International pays rent for an enrichment center, creating a safe haven for vulnerable girls, and provides funds that enable volunteer counselors to travel to partner schools, delivering a message of hope to hundreds of students.

### Highlights

- Girls now believe in themselves. They are discovering self-worth and avoiding drug abuse and sexually transmitted diseases, which impact 20 percent of girls at partner schools.
- Girls now believe in their future. They are being tutored after school, preparing for careers and learning to be entrepreneurs.
- Girls now believe in Jesus. Girls are growing in faith through Bible studies and prayer support groups.
- Cross International is committed to providing desperately needed funds to magnify the saving message of the Lord. By replacing the degrading messages of the street with a message of hope, this inspiring outreach is changing lives forever!



**Please join us as we help empower girls to see themselves as valuable, talented children of God.**



## The Need: Children Without Hope

The childhood of Lilian Natwiijuka might seem extraordinarily tragic, but in Kampala, her heartbreaking story is all too common. Many children in her area of Uganda are orphaned at a young age and are preyed upon by those who have already sold out to the tough, urban culture. Having no family support, no resources for education and no role models for inspiration, girls like Lilian often resort to a life on the streets filled with drug abuse and prostitution.

In Lilian's case, the hardships began with the loss of parents. Her parents died when she was only 4, and Lilian was left with an aging grandmother in a remote village. Destitute and near starvation, the two survived on one small meal a day.

When Lilian's grandmother eventually passed away, the girl learned she would be taken to the city and she was excited by the prospect, but her joy soon turned to anguish. At just 9 years old, Lilian was put to work for a family she hardly knew. They made her a nanny for a 3-year-old child and she served as the housekeeper and cook for the family. Beyond these hardships and the loss of her childhood, she was abused by an older boy in the household.

Lilian cried often — and God heard her sorrow. To change the girl's destiny, the Lord moved a school teacher to feel sympathy for the girl and take her to a nearby Christian ministry, Empowering Young Women.

The Christ-filled staff of the ministry quickly took action, stopping the abusive actions at home, arranging for counseling for Lilian, and finding a sponsor who would pay her school tuition. They also welcomed her into the enrichment center for tutoring and Bible study.

Lilian is just one of hundreds of abandoned or unwanted girls in need of such compassion, and your support of Cross International will enable Empowering Young Women to rescue them from despair and hopelessness. While Lilian has been saved, others are still desperate for our help.

Now 16, Lilian brims with confidence and faith. She makes high marks in school and is chairperson of a debate team. She reaches out to others as a member of her church's worship team and evangelism society. Through Empowering Young Women, the Lord has saved her life and soul. Now Jesus is calling you to help us do the same for other girls like Lilian!



*An orphan once desperately in need of support, Lilian now confidently witnesses to younger girls about the wonders the Lord has done in her life.*



## The Response: Offering Faith, Hope and Love

A four-mile walk to and from school will not deter Ustah Alicwamu from reaching her goal.

The 16-year-old orphan isn't fazed by what awaits her at home either. There, she cares for three young children, preparing meals for the family she stays with and serving as a household maid in the run-down neighborhood she must call home.



*Ustah, center, joyfully celebrates with two other girls at the Empowering Young Women enrichment center. The girls are excited to be in beautiful gowns for a special performance.*

Ustah has her sights set on becoming a nurse, and she meets all challenges with a joyful faith in the Lord.

Empowering Young Women stepped in to rescue Ustah three years ago when her caregivers said they could no longer pay her school tuition. The staff and volunteers of Empowering Young Women donated money for tuition and welcomed Ustah to the afterschool enrichment center.

Volunteer teachers and counselors offer emotional, academic and spiritual support, while others travel to partner schools to reach out to hundreds of vulnerable girls. Their message is saving lives and building bright futures in three key ways:

- They help girls cope with the pressures of today. Incidents of sexually transmitted diseases and teenage pregnancies are falling as counselors present positive coping strategies and health instruction.
- They prepare girls for the jobs of tomorrow. School retention rates are rising as girls are tutored on all academic subjects. The Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Association teaches the girls how to support themselves by making and marketing beaded jewelry, candles and kitengi bags.
- They inspire girls to embrace the promise of eternity. Bible studies and faith sharing groups lead girls to accept Jesus as their savior and witness to others about their hope in him.

The Lord is working miracles in the lives of hundreds of young girls like Ustah. Once shy and sullen, she is now confident and a top performer in school. Once sad and disillusioned, she now exudes a joyful faith in the Lord and leads other girls in prayer.

Empowering Young Women faces one challenge — finding funding to help the increasing number of girls coming forward for help. But there is a solution... you! With your support, no girl will be turned away and no young soul will be abandoned to a life on the streets.



## Empowering Young Women | Project 1206



### Your Opportunity

An amazing Christ-centered ministry was born when one social worker, Fiona Miremba Kiggundu, reached out to help a girl suffering abuse. As Fiona expanded her outreach, coming to the aid of one troubled girl after another, the Lord blessed her sacrifice and helped her create Empowering Young Women.

Seize this opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ! Rescue a young girl from hardship and restore her hope. Your compassion will enable Empowering Young Women to reach vulnerable young women before they are trapped by drug abuse, prostitution and life on the streets.

Your gift will meet three urgent needs by providing:

- Rent for the enrichment center, creating a safe haven for the girls
- Travel and program costs for volunteers who give so generously of their time and talent to meet with girls.

Years ago, the Lord called Fiona to be a light of hope in a dark world of abandonment and abuse. Today, you can empower her growing ministry. Your contribution, small or large, is important as it will enable a caring team to show his love to young girls before they succumb to hopelessness and the demeaning messages of the streets.

Already, Empowering Young Women is reaching more than 400 girls who now believe in themselves and have a renewed hope in a brighter future. With your help, even more lives can be rescued and restored!

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#### Our Promise to You!

Proceeds from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2019, the close of our ministry's fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.