



On our last trip to Uganda, in September 2022, we had the privilege of being hosted in the homes of several widows. Getting to visit with them one-on-one and see their homes was such an honor, and we were treated like royal guests. The women were excited to have us see their businesses and view their homes. They pulled out makeshift benches or little mats for us to sit on as they shared their stories, while Alexa, the director of Hope Center for Children of Africa (HCCA) Uganda, translated.

## Meet Grace

HCCA's widows in Uganda have an organized system of positions, and Grace Namwaku is the group's official chairwoman. She has been a part of the work of Hope Centers since her husband died in 2016 and she received her first microloan. When a husband dies in Uganda, his possessions do not automatically go to his wife as they do in the United States. His birth family is free to step in and take what they want, including his land and house. This is the position Grace found herself in at her husband's passing. Having all their land taken from her, she was forced to figure out her own way to make a living. Her microloan enabled her to set up a little shop out of which she sells charcoal and petrol. Grace is a well-respected leader amongst the widows and is now blessed to have her oldest daughter assisting her in helping the women. While we were visiting her, Grace managed to secure some fresh sugarcane for us to try and then was entertained by watching us chew and spit.



## Meet Margrate

Margrate Nanyonjo welcomed us to her home with much excitement—bouncing, hugs, and huge smiles (even though she doesn't seem to smile on photos, for some reason). She escorted us to a short bench inside her neat home, and once we were seated, she properly greeted us in typical Ugandan fashion by getting down on her knees and taking our hands in hers one-by-one. Margrate is the assistant to the chairwoman and has had a loan through HCCA for only three years, even though her husband died in 2014. She uses her loan to raise pigs, hens, various crops, and a cow. She spoke proudly of her 17-year-old son who finished school at the top of his class and was able to move to the big city of Kampala for higher education. Since she has four orphans

## Thanks for your support

***“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction.”***

**- James 1:27**





currently in her care, the profit from her business goes toward paying for their monthly school fees and other needs. She had recently experienced thieves coming at night to steal her hens and expressed frustration that all one can do in such a situation is stay inside and watch them haul away chickens since the men come wielding machetes. We felt the frustration right along with her.



## Meet Rose



Rosemary Namakura is the information leader for the widows. It's her job to pass along any necessary info the women might need, for example if there is to be a meeting at the farm or a particular widow is sick and needs help. Rose is in the opposite situation from Grace. When Rose's husband died in 2020, his family graciously left the land in Rose's care, so she has space in which to raise the tomatoes, onions, maize, beans, and cassava provided by her loan which helps support the four orphans she tends. She was excited to show us the crops near her house. When we asked about the cassava, she beckoned for us to follow her. We assumed it was also nearby, but we were eventually reminded that one should never assume. We followed



Rose for quite a while down the main dirt road until we came to a second location for her crops. They were beautifully cared for, with everything done by hand, of course. When it was time for us to move on, we hopped into the new van, and Alexa slipped Rose a few coins to pay for a boda boda ride back to her house.

## The Next Trip

Jonathan will be headed to Africa again in March and will be traveling with three others. Please pray for safe travels and good health for the team.

## Update on the D.R.C.

Traveling to the Democratic Republic of Congo can be quite challenging, and more often than not, even the best laid plans for Jonathan to visit the work there are thwarted. Please pray that this time the D.R.C. team will succeed in traveling to Uganda to meet with him since it isn't feasible for him to travel to the D.R.C. right now. (And Zoom meetings, although good, aren't the same as meeting face to face and spending time together.)



## Ways to partner with HCCA:

- Give to the special project (listed above) \_\_\_\_\_
- Give to the gift of an education \_\_\_\_\_
- Give to the gift of a micro loan \_\_\_\_\_
- Give the gift of health to provide medicine \_\_\_\_\_
- Give to the general fund so we can meet the most pressing needs \_\_\_\_\_

HCCA is a 501c3 organization.

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