



Newsletter

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<https://thelatestnewsletter.volosite.com>

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Turning Memories into Action

Special 1997 - 2018

21 years in service : still growing strong

Brief History

In April of 1997, at Katikamu SDA Secondary School - Luwero District, a special call was extended to several clergy and local community opinion leaders to be sensitized with HIV/aids prevention and care strategies. The program which took a week was funded by Action Aid and facilitated by the Late Doctor Xavier Mubiru, assisted by Mr. Hannington Nkayivu and other medical personnel.

It was a chance for **Festus Bazira** (who was then a church pastor for Nakaseke SDA District) to learn more about HIV transmission and effects associated to it. During the week, the facilitator were so clear and made it plain that HIV was not associated to evils or sins but a virus like any other with a difference that it had no cure. They went further to call upon all willing individuals to form organizations purposely to combat this deadly epidemic with a promise that Action AID and SDA community would support such initiatives. In on **November 2nd 1997**, Festus took this serious and was driven to recruiting local volunteers and held the first general meeting **at Nakaseke High School**



The full name of the organization was **The Voluntary Services Trust Team**, abbreviated - **VOLSET** - whereby the abbreviation was recognized as a full name to date.

To officially launch the initiative, Dr Xavier Mubiru offered himself to be the backbone of the organization despite of death claiming him just 5 months after the formation of the organization which was a big blow but the co-founders kept the candle lit. The First HIV client to be supported was a 22 young lady who had a daughter and a son but the husband had died what the family members termed as a witchcraft but later it was found out it was HIV/AIDS related earth. She had been infected too. Imagine getting HIV which has no cure but still followed health and other advisory services offered to her. TASO – Uganda and other health facilities served as our referral centers for her and other clients which followed later. The organization supported her 2 children with education. Sadly, after 3 years of struggling with life, due to lack of cure of HIV, the young lady died, however, a dignified death anyway. Some members of the organization were there to give aid and support. From time to time even up to the day she breathed her last, she showed appreciation.



PLWHAs support was one of our first activities

Volset Newsletter - special 1997-2018

1998 - 2001



Year 1997 was not all that easy due to lack of funds. Members and local volunteers contributed greatly towards the running of the organization.

Early 1998, Volset was registered as a CBO with Luwero District Local Government. This opened a way for more support. District Health Department was among the first supporters of our activities through health material and equipment donation and promotion through conferences/meetings. Assistance came also from AFXB – which included both monetary and advisory support. All support was directed to HIV/AIDS Prevention and homecare. It was in October 1998 when Mr. Festus Bazira was funded by RATN to attend a one Month HIV/AIDS training in Zambia. That increased on the Volset capacity performance and management

Not forgetting The Real Uganda. Organisations like AIC, TASO, and health centers like Nakaseke, Kasana, and other private clinics were very supportive too. They acted as our referral centers. During this period, over 1200 clients were reached through seminars, material support, preventive services, and psychosocial support to VIV/AIDS +clients and affected children. Among the activities carried out included music, dance/drama, meetings, home visits, educational support, film shows, seminars, and many more. Preventive measures included condom education and free distribution. Thanks to the Rose Charities-Canada for continued support. Thanks to friends of Volset (Aussie) and the Treos of Island.

MUDINET: Great appreciation also goes to a Mukono District Network of PHAs (**MUDINET**). The clients, who had no hope to live, were encouraged to adhere to medical advices and start on ARVs. More than 30 clients who lived positively survived and to date we can witness their being alive and profitable to their families and nation. Thanks to Mr. Josephus Gavah who pioneered the establishment of MUDINET. Other programs like GOSSACE, SIKYOMU, CODEAPS, were a great support too.



It was not until 2003 in August when the first international volunteer from Canada, Deen Selwood, arrived to work with VOLSET Mukono District. For the 4 months she volunteered with this organisation a lot was achieved. We managed to plan on constructing a school for needy children, she promoted HIV+women with small business starter-up funds, she donated lap-top to the project, trained members in computer and management skills. She also extended sponsorship to children through Mr. Roger, and other family members and friends. Sadly she died in 2010. She, however, had lifted the Volset from Deam to Cream (*See below*)

2002 - 2017

In year 2002 VOLSET services were extended to Mukono District with its office in Ntenjeru Trading Centre on Katosi Road. Areas of concern included Koome Island, Lwaaje Island, landing and fishing sites sites along Lake Victoria.



From Wooden classes



To permanent Blocks

20TH VOLSET & 8TH FUTURE DIPLOMATS BIRTHDAYS



ON DEC. 1, 2017 - 31 CHILDREN GRADUATED FROM NURSERY TO GRADE ONE



Front View of the New Dining Room



New Boys dormitory Commissioned too



Former expensive kitchen



A modernized Kitchen was also commissioned



PORTION OF THE DINING ROOM



Children have a reason to appreciation



Let us rejoice and be thankful to warm-giving hands



APPRECIATION

At this point, there is more success than challenges. All the success have happened as a result of continued support and funding from our esteemed individuals and organisations. As mentioned earlier, several organisations and individuals have been there for us. These include:

Organisations

- ✓ The Rose Charities – Canada
- ✓ Friends of Volset - Australia
- ✓ The Treos – Ireland
- ✓ Omnimed – USA
- ✓ Regional AIDS Training Network (RATN)
- ✓ Salvation Army – Chinkakata – Zambia
- ✓ UNASO – Uganda
- ✓ TASO – Uganda
- ✓ FXB – Uganda
- ✓ UNACO – Uganda
- ✓ AIC – Uganda
- ✓ ActionAid – Uganda
- ✓ MUDINET – Mukono, Uganda
- ✓ GOSSACE – Golomolo - Uganda
- ✓ Helper Friend – Nakisunga, Uganda
- ✓ JICO – Kalagi –Uganda
- ✓ CODEAPS – Katosi – Uganda
- ✓ Sikyoomu – Bugolombe, Uganda

To mention but a few

Not forgetting:

- Buganda Land Board
- Nakaseke Hospital
- Kojja Health Centre IV
- DDH – Mukono District
- DEO – Mukono District
- MEO/S – Uganda
- Local Leaders (Mukono and Luwero Districts)
- CDO – Mukono District
- Red Cross – Mukono Branch
- The Real Uganda & Global Volunteers Network

Self-supporting Volunteers came from

Canada, Australia, Germany, Israel, Italy, USA, Ireland, Netherland, Switzerland, Australia, China, Japan, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria and ----

2018 PLAN

- **Installation of Solar Power Lights** in both girls and boys dormitories, security lights, and main hall. This is very essential because the hydal power has untimely blackouts and expensive
- **Equipping the Dining Room** with chairs and tables
- **Renovating 6 classrooms** floors which have been badly wornout and repainting all classroom walls
- **Lobbying for more volunteers, NGOs and sponsors involvement** both national and international.
- **Continued support** to HIV affected and infected children. Also other children sponsorship.

Our Contact Details

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School:

BANKERS:

STANBIC BANK UGANDA LTD – Mukono Branch

VOLSET

Account Number 9030001057617

EQUITY BANK – UGANDA – Mukono Branch

Future Diplomats Primary School

Account Number 1006200959145

This year's CEREBRATIONS will be held on 25th November, 2018 at VOLSET Association's Headquarters – Ntenjeru Town, (Mukono-Uganda). All are invited Chief Guest will be Dr. Kathy from Australia