



Andrew Banman

Children Arise





ARISE Foundation

In Uganda, many families struggle to educate their kids. Small children start and stop school as parents scramble to find funds for school throughout the year. These kids lose parts of the school year and end up underperforming or not graduating at all. When these students do find a way to persist, they eventually become youth in secondary school. Here the costs increase and families struggle again to pay the fees required. Life for these youth can become endless work as they spend their day in class, help their family earn after school, and do homework by a dim light late into the evening. To get an education in Uganda is not easy, nor is it a guarantee.

While in school, children are taught to sit still and listen to the teacher. They must take notes and learn information often without any opportunity to explore the detail and understand. Ugandan education is primarily memorization. Teachers are responsible to get kids through the government exams with a good score because higher average scores attract more students and the school can charge larger fees.

Children growing up in this educational environment learn little that they could apply to employment if they were able to find work. Of course few find work, so they need to create their own opportunities. Unfortunately, they're also poorly equipped to think out of the box and see the very real potential around them.

The emerging **Arise Foundation** program intends to bring youth interns onto our team for a limited time and engage them in developing skills and character. Some interns will have an interest in learning from our team directly while others will add value to the team by practising their skills inside Arise for a period of time. In either case, the intern will engage with a mature and effective team to develop themselves in areas such as honesty and integrity. They will join the Arise team in daily "Power-Up" meetings and "Thinking Big" discussions. They will walk with us in our community and experience team culture. They will practise walking respectfully and honestly with team members and clients. Arise will help interns learn to analyze the world around them and find potential and solutions.

The **Arise Foundation** program will be developed in the next 6 months. Today, the Arise team and leaders are creating a curriculum of materials that will be tested and tuned. Watch for the program to launch early in 2024.



ARISE

Community



Arise works with families that have failed or are already struggling on the edge of failure. We watch for the most difficult situations and work there to create families that can thrive. School for children in these families is just a dream unless the family can start some kind of business and earn funds to pay their bills. Often, we meet young teenage children who have only completed a few years of primary school because of the family's financial challenges.

Recently, the Arise team met a family who had been struggling on the edge of failure for some time. A well meaning neighbour who knew about Arise called us a number of times insisting that we meet with mama Ruth. We eventually invited this mama to come and share her family's situation and she did.

Mama Ruth explained that she had a reasonably successful hairdressing business before COVID but that lockdowns stopped customers from getting out to get their hair done. As the pandemic dragged on, Ruth became behind in her rent and struggled to provide her 3 kids with food. Today, Ruth is 6 months behind on her rent and her landlord is insisting she leave. Her family was about to be homeless and hungry.

The Arise team determined that we could help Ruth. Her attitude and perspective helped us feel confident that she could succeed. She had a natural tendency toward a smile as she explained to us that she knew someone was coming to help the family. Ruth's Christian faith had led her to this belief. You see when the landlord had told her to go, she heard God tell her to just hold on. He was sending help. So mama Ruth arranged with the landlord to have a few more days before she had to leave.

Now you may or may not believe in God yourself, but the fact is that working with people who have hope is a game-changer. The hope in Ruth brought her to Arise ready to engage and with the expectation of success. In fact, our entire team was encouraged because we already had the perfect home for mama Ruth and her family. We had sourced it for another family who decided they didn't want it. This home would allow Ruth to live and work under the same roof, at one monthly cost.

"God told me to hold on. He was sending help."

- Mama Ruth

Today, Arise is working with mama Ruth to provide her some life-skills and to cost her hairdressing business. She is in her new home and that smile is fixed to her face as she thinks about being back in business. Arise expects Ruth will quickly be able to support her family and complete the Arise Community program.



ARISE Community

Children Arise works to help children thrive. It's ironic however that we have very few children's programs. We have found that the most consistent way to help children thrive is to help their mama earn a livable wage. In our little community, a mama and 3 kids needs about \$150 CAD a month to pay their rent and feed themselves. It's more like \$300 CAD if they expect to pay school fees and have a little savings for emergencies. In this urban slum, there are many families who cannot raise the minimum amount each month and are sinking into debt.

The story of mama Jane above is a good example. When Arise encountered Jane's family they were months behind with their rent and relying mostly on kind neighbours for food. When Arise encounters people in difficult situations who seem ready and willing to work, we help them plan and launch a small business. While this may not seem to directly help the children, it's the best thing we can do for them because when mama earns a living wage, she brings stability to the entire household.

From time to time, Arise meets an older child who has a dream to do business. Jane's daughter Gloria is a good example. The day before Jane was officially grafted into the Arise Community program, she and Gloria attended a skills training event at Arise. Our team was teaching a group to make soap and sharing how this could be used to generate a good income with a minimal investment. Gloria understood the message and immediately had a vision of making and selling soap.

Arise leaders heard this story and invited Gloria to come and share her vision with us. By the end of our meeting, Gloria had been given funds and the team had agreed on a time to shop for the materials she would need. Today, young Gloria is helping support her family while also in the Arise Community mama training program where she will learn more about business. A simple investment of \$41 CAD got young Gloria started in her own small business.



**Get in on the action by joining the
Compassion Hive on Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/compassionhive>

skip it!

For the Kids

YOUR CHOICES MATTER

Children in our community lack basic necessities like food, warm beds and even parents. The Arise Community program works with abandoned children and struggling parents to build families with the capacity to thrive.

Arise is raising \$10,000 CAD to reunite 10 more families. The money you would spend on a coffee or a meal can make a huge difference. Please help Arise transform lives by sharing what you can.

What would you skip to help the kids?

<https://childrenarise.org/skip-it/>

