

## Arlington Secondary and Vocational School's Groundbreaking Ceremony



The long awaited dream for many children and people in Eastern Uganda is about to become a reality.

Co-founders John and Joyce Wanda were onsite on August 12 to participate in a colorful groundbreaking ceremony for the Arlington Secondary and Vocational School in Kikholo town, Bududa district in Uganda. Hon. Dr. Mary Goretti Kitutu , Minister for Karamoja Affairs and Member of Parliament for Manafwa District was the Guest of Honor. She was joined by area members of parliament: Hon. Isaac Modoi, Hon. John Baptiste Nambeshe, LC 5 Chair Bududa district, other district officials and American friends and board members at the ribbon cutting ceremony, The ceremony marked the start of preliminary works, including road access, site infrastructure, water connections, fencing, and final preparations before construction starts in earnest. AAH Co-founders John and Joyce Wanda REACH board members Dean Scribner, Jim Angel, Amy Angel and many REACH for Uganda US friends and donors like Jim Hussey, Lynne Willhoit, Richard Viola, Clark Petersen, Linda Valentino, and many Ugandan friends and supporters joined

the minister as she cut the ribbon and planted trees along the prospective road into the school. [Here is a news clip from the local Uganda TV station](#).

This is a major milestone and a big dream for us. It couldn't have happened without the support of all our donors. [Watch a brief video of how you can be involved.](#)

[Click here to Donate to the Secondary School Building Project.](#)

## [2023 Teen Trip](#)



REACH Board member Ani Arzomoonian led a group of nine teens from Northern Virginia area high schools on a visit to Uganda to work on our programs. The travelers included Caitlin Good, Bailey Leach, Christian Leach, Sophia O'Connell, Audrey Pocrass, Amity Pratt, Audrey Shiplett, Ava Signorelli, and Bobby Signorelli.

The teens worked with students at Arlington and Matuwa Junior schools and alongside our staff at the Beatrice Tierney clinics. Teens kicked off the reading challenge at Matuwa and Arlington junior schools. Each teen had a passion project which they shared with our students in Uganda. A highlight for some students was visiting the home of their sponsored students. The teens were fully involved in all the school activities including participating in the mother-daughter day at AJS.

We greatly appreciate the parents and families who supported the teens to make this trip possible. Please be sure to email us at [info@reachforuganda.org](mailto:info@reachforuganda.org) if interested in participating in the 2024 trips.

## [2023 Adult and Working Trip](#)





REACH for Uganda's Adult and Working Trip participants arrived in Uganda with AAH founder John Wanda on July 29. They are working on different projects as they mentor young AAH graduate Interns who will continue the projects after the volunteers return to the US. The volunteers on this trip include Ritch Viola, Lynne Willhoit, Linda Valentino, Jim Hussey, Clark Petersen, Jim Angel, Dean Scribner, and Amy Angel. Founders John and Joyce Wanda accompanied this team. If you have been thinking of visiting our programs in Uganda, be sure to sign up for the trips starting in November. Email us at [info@reachforuganda.org](mailto:info@reachforuganda.org)

## **She's The First in Bududa**



AAH Uganda hosted our partners, She's the First, in Bududa for two days of training for staff, student leaders, administrators, outreach school students and leaders. The STF team included Kate, Florence and Emma. She's The First



is a long term partner that has worked with us to create a great impact on our girls and strengthened our programing with our girls in mind.

Attendees included girls from some of the 26 outreach schools in Bududa and Namisindwa schools we work with.



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## **Meeting with Partners in Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda**

Executive Director Joyce Wanda and Director Amy Angel of the REACH for Uganda Board attended the Segal Family Foundation's 2023 Annual Meeting on July 12-14<sup>th</sup> in Kigali, Rwanda. The Theme was Transforming How Change Happens in Africa. There were 650 attendees, a mixture of partner organizations and funders. Everyone was encouraged to engage with each other, learning from other organizations doing similar work. There were many useful sessions on fundraising. We were inspired by the idea of "friend-raising" in part because it was a reminder that REACH already has such effective programs in place.

On the 16-20<sup>th</sup> of July, we attended Women Deliver Conference, also in the Kigali Conference Center. There were 6,000 attendees! The Theme was Spaces, Solidarity and Solutions. We attended 3-6 sessions per day with topics as varied as Menstruation creates Jobs, Adolescent Girls as Change Agents, and Accelerating Inclusive Economic Growth. One message that we heard repeatedly was "Nothing for us, without us", a validation of REACH and AAH Uganda's approach of inviting the local community and the kids to have input into our programs.

## **Join Us at Upcoming Events**

### **Arlington County Fair: August 18th - 20th**

If you come to the Arlington County Fair at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, be sure to stop by our REACH for Uganda booth and say hello to our

volunteers. We shall be delighted to see you and answer any questions you may have. Our booth is B10 indoors. We still need to fill up a few volunteer slots. Please [sign up to volunteer here](#). Additional information about the fair can be found [here](#).

## **REACH President Dick Burk in Denver, Colorado: August 20th, 1-5 pm**

Join Dick and Carole Burk at a gathering with friends of REACH for Uganda in Denver as they share updates about the secondary school and other programs. Address is: 55 Cook Street, Denver, CO.  
Time: 1-5 PM. Reach out to Dick for additional information at [dick@reachforuganda.org](mailto:dick@reachforuganda.org)

**Mike Love concert: Sept 18th Santa Barbara, CA**

CONCERT BENEFITTING:

unite to light

& REACH  
FOR UGANDA

MIKE



LOVE

SOHO MUSIC CLUB

09.18.2023

VIP Dinner Meet & Greet: 6PM

Show: 8PM

Must be 21+

For our friends on the West coast, please join us at a Mike Love concert organized by our partner organization Unite to Light and our friends in Santa Barbara led by Jan Shapiro and benefiting children of Uganda.

**Date: Sept 18th**

**Venue: Soho Restaurant and Music Club, Santa Barbara, California.**

**VIP Dinner Meet & Greet 6:00pm and show: 8:00 pm.**

This project helps some of the most vulnerable children gain the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty. By creating Light Libraries, we can help multiple students with a single \$10 solar light.

The concert will take place at Soho Restaurant and Music Club, renowned for being the heart of the live music community in Santa Barbara. All proceeds from ticket sales will donate Luke Lights to REACH for Uganda students.

If you will be in the Los Angeles and Santa Barbara area in California, please grab your ticket and join us.

**Tickets:** <https://www.sohosb.com/events/mike-love-unite-to-light-benefit-soho-santabarbara>

## **REACH for Uganda Gala: October 6**

The 2023 Gala will be on Oct 6, 6-10 PM at The Washington Golf and Country Club. Invitations will be coming your way next week. Please plan on join us and invite your friends. If you or your company can be a gala sponsor or donate auction items, please contact us at [info@reachforuganda.org](mailto:info@reachforuganda.org) or reach out to our gala chair, [JoAnn Willis](#).

## **Hosting with REACH in your town**

[Sign up here](#) to host a small gathering/dinner with your friends and invite a REACH board member to join you. We shall provide the materials - email Amy at: [amy@reachforuganda.org](mailto:amy@reachforuganda.org) for additional information.

**Thank you for being a valuable member of our team. See you soon!**

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**[www.reachforuganda.org](http://www.reachforuganda.org)**

[Give to REACH for Uganda](#) and help transform a life of a child. **[Sponsor a student today](#)**  
[Learn about other ways to give](#)

Make your legacy count and felt for generations. **[Contact US](#)** to learn about including REACH for Uganda in your will, or making REACH a beneficiary of your retirement fund or life insurance policy.



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