



INSIDE HOPE

SUMMER 2011

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A DIFFERENT KIND OF LEADERSHIP

Hear the words 'African' and 'leader' in the same sentence and chances are you'll envisage a sweaty tyrant bleeding his country dry. From north to south, Africa's political leaders seem to be doing little to challenge the stereotype. HOPEHIV's idea of leadership is different. Leadership is influence: nothing more, nothing less.*

Wherever we look, we see potential for influence. Even in the poorest communities, grannies, guardians and volunteers are taking action and making changes. Even among the most vulnerable children, young role models are emerging in families, schools and neighbourhoods, changing the future from the ground up. This issue of INSIDE HOPE showcases how our investment in leadership potential is paying off at IWDP in Uganda and through our university scholarship students across sub-Saharan Africa.

*Thanks to John Maxwell for this neat definition.

> HELP US PLAN AHEAD WITH A DIRECT DEBIT

Influential leaders aren't born, they're made. It's a long-term investment. HOPEHIV funds projects for at least a year and works with partners for months in advance to shape proposals. Long before donations ever reach our account, we need to know what we can commit to.

That's where you come in. If you already give by Direct Debit, thank you very much. If not, please consider it. Just fill in the form on the back page. You'll be helping vulnerable young people sustain the changes they're making in themselves and their communities.

WHY DIRECT DEBIT?

- These are tough times. Giant cheques are few and far between. We need a steady stream of small donations to stay afloat.
- Knowing what's coming in each month makes it much easier to plan what's going out, helping HOPEHIV do more with your money.
- Direct Debit is an easy and secure way to give. Just fill in the form on the back page – simple.

BE SEEN. > BE HEARD.

Sheila Kengingo would never have been marked out as a future leader. Fatherless, homeless and a girl, her prospects in rural Uganda seemed limited: drop out of school and marry an older man or work as a domestic servant.

Today, at just 25, Sheila is leading the HOPEHIV-funded child rights programme for the Integrated Women's Development Project (IWDP), giving vulnerable children the knowledge, confidence and support they need to stand up for themselves and others.

SHEILAS' STORY CONTINUES >





HOPEHIV AND IWDP

2008 Sheila wants to develop IWDP's work on child rights. She makes the five hour bus trip to Kampala to meet our Africa Director. He's so impressed he gets back on the bus with her to see the project straightaway! 27 school child rights clubs are set up supported by volunteer Human Rights Ambassadors and community reporting systems. Members start growing fruit and veg to earn money to fund clubs and help poorer pupils come back to school.

2009 Sheila visits HOPEHIV child rights partners in Kenya and for the first time sees children running clubs for themselves. Inspired, she starts to transform IWDP's programme. HOPEHIV gives Sheila a scholarship for a two year Master's in Human Rights (distance learning with weekend seminars in Kampala).

2010 All 27 clubs are fully trained and equipped to run without HOPEHIV funding. The drop-out rate for vulnerable children is reduced. Orphans are reappearing in class. Teachers see increased confidence, decreased stigma and a 'spirit of concern' for other children. In the community, 20,000 people hear the message. Cases of abuse and neglect are down. Volunteer committees are monitoring the situation.

2011 The programme is replicated with 20 new clubs being set up in a neighbouring district due to demand from other schools which have seen the programme in action.

When her father died, Sheila, her mother and two younger brothers were forced out of their home by relatives. Property disputes are a common problem and the seed of many others: instability, violence or poverty at home all stand in the way of good school attendance. The cost of fees, uniforms and books exacerbates the situation. In Sheila's case, success was remarkable but not random: the child rights club at her school inspired her to struggle on with her education, all the way through to her Master's in Human Rights, sponsored by HOPEHIV.

The programme Sheila now leads for IWDP is also based on school child rights clubs and is also uncovering and nurturing leadership potential. **Members learn about the laws that protect them, their right to an education and also about their responsibilities.** Then they go out to markets, community meetings and church services to (literally) make a song and dance about it.

When children - poor kids, AIDS orphans, girls! - stand up and speak it's sharply counter-cultural. **It shocks people into action.** One orphaned girl who came along to a child rights club concert at church found the courage to talk to them about being raped. They helped her go for an HIV test and bought her the uniform and books she needed to go back to school.

If adults don't want to listen, the children are supported by trained local community volunteers called Human Rights Ambassadors. One of the Ambassadors said, **'People here had misunderstood human rights and associated it with bad behaviour and selfishness.'** With rights come responsibilities and the clubs encourage members to lead by example - they keep the school grounds tidy and work hard. As a result, many have now been chosen as prefects.

In just four years, HOPEHIV's funding has helped over 1,000 vulnerable children learn to speak for themselves and their peers. So far, they estimate that 20,000 people have heard their message.

When poor communities are overwhelmed by AIDS and poverty, when children are abused and neglected and denied an education, it's easy to despair. But **we see hope in action at IWDP: young people emerging from the very bottom of the pile to influence those around them and instigate change.** Slowly but surely, our investment - your investment - in the potential of small projects like this can change the future for a child, a family, a community, a country.

> FOUR YEARS OF INVESTING IN POTENTIAL AT IWDP IS YIELDING AMAZING RESULTS. HELP HOPEHIV BUILD STRONG PARTNERSHIPS AND CREATE LASTING CHANGE WITH A DIRECT DEBIT - JUST FILL IN THE FORM ON THE BACK PAGE.

HOPEHIV'S BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS

The impact that young leaders make can be accelerated, expanded and sustained by academic study and qualifications. With this in mind, HOPEHIV has a small tertiary scholarship fund for older orphans such as Sheila at IWDP (see previous article). All have a track record of serving their communities and all have the potential to change the future for the next generation. Here we profile two of our newer scholarship students.



SIJUI. ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA.

In his scholarship application, Sijui Hobe, 26, says his vision is to become a role model. We think he already is. His father lost to AIDS, his mother very ill, his twelve younger siblings needing food on the table - **Sijui's home life as a young carer is a huge challenge.** He works as a private tutor and a tour guide but somehow still finds the time, energy and compassion to spot the kids in his fishing village who are really struggling and give them free classes.

As if that were not enough, Sijui still volunteers as a Peer Educator for HOPEHIV partner ZASO,



HIS VISION IS TO BECOME A ROLE MODEL. WE THINK HE ALREADY IS.



helping young people **build self-esteem and make better choices in life.** Sijui's own decision making seems sound. Originally he wanted to be a doctor but realised that a Medicine degree would be too expensive. He found out that there was a shortage of science teachers on Zanzibar so applied to HOPEHIV for a scholarship to study Education.

If he succeeds in getting his degree, **Sijui's influence will be even more significant,** changing perceptions of young people from the most difficult backgrounds. Already, Sijui says, **'In my community though I am AIDS orphan I get respect due to my educational qualification.'**



STEVIE. BLANTYRE, MALAWI.

Stevie Muliya, 22, is unashamedly ambitious. A media mogul in the making, he wants to run his own TV and radio stations **'to help the local people voice out their concern to the world.'** A scholarship from HOPEHIV is helping him take a big step towards achieving his goals: studying for a diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication.

With Stevie, it is not a question of potential: **he has already shown himself to be an influential leader.** He is chairperson of his local youth group and is the praise team leader at his church. Stevie has also been forced to step up to the front at home. After his parents died, Stevie was the only one of the five kids to complete school so he became the breadwinner.

Drive and determination are qualities Stevie already has in abundance. He made his way to the Salvation Army in Malawi and asked them whether they could help with his tuition fees. **The officer there knew we were on the lookout for talented leadership potential and suggested HOPEHIV.** Our scholarship is now enabling Stevie to concentrate on his studies, bringing him closer to **'giving hope to vulnerable, infected and affected people with HIV/AIDS.'**

STEVIE, WHO HAS WANTED TO BE A JOURNALIST SINCE HE WAS EIGHT, PICTURED ON HIS PRESENTER PLACEMENT AT A CHURCH TV CHANNEL

Quotations are from Stevie and Sijui's scholarship applications.



READ OUR COVER GIRL HADIJA'S SCHOLARSHIP STORY AT WWW.HOPEHIV.ORG

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