



*Circle of Peace International is a voluntary, non-profit organization established to promote access to formal and informal education, greater social understanding, and cultural exchanges through outreach and relationship building between Americans and Ugandans*

## MESSAGE FROM COPI PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Circle of Peace International COPI and the Circle of Peace School (CPS).

I will begin with a quote from the former South African President Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Sincerely speaking you are changing the world of children in Uganda. I am pleased to report that Ms. Amina Namazzi, of the first class from my parent's porch, received a law degree from the Law School of Uganda Christian University Mukono, Uganda while Mr. George Mugwanya from that same class is pursuing a master degree at University of Makerere.

As I look back on past years and seeing the countless achievements of former and current students of CPS, I can only express sincere thanks and appreciation to you, our dynamic supporters and donors, for your generosity. I am looking to forward working with Jarrett Gouldin, a 6th grade student who expressed his ardent interest last fall in what we are doing at the Circle of Peace School, has chosen the school to be his charitable service project.

We are so grateful to our sponsors and donors who have made and continue to make tremendous impact on the CPS. Their gifts continue to make it possible to keep our students in school and by their gifts the school has received a significant face lift.

Thank You, Joanita Senoga

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### ON THE LOSS OF BOARD MEMBER JAMES GWIN



*Mr. Gwin served faithfully on the board since 2009 – February 2013 Circle of Peace International . . .*

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## REMEMBERING PASSY MIREMBE BBAALE

*By Joanita Senoga*

The Bbaale family, the Circle of Peace School, and COPI lost a sister, teacher, headmistress and a friend, Ms. Passy Mirembe Bbaale on 1/28/2013 due to some medical complications. Up until her death, she served as the headmistress from 1999 - 2013. I was shocked and saddened when I received the news about the unexpected passing of my dear sister and best friend. The name Mirembe means "Peace." She was such a peaceful, calm and quiet

person, just like her name. Anyone who ever met her saw the peacefulness and humility in her eyes. She was not just a committed and an amazing teacher, Passy was a leader and a mentor who prided guidance and who always helped her students realized their individual potentials. She always encouraged the students to do their best. She loved and treated them like her very own. In her life time, she loved teaching and was committed to motivating her students to succeed.

*"She was so kind and helpful during my stay and I cannot believe the kids will be without her. She helped so many kids and she will always be remembered for that." ~Megan Ney*

For those who visited the Circle of Peace School and had the chance to meet Passy can testify to the truth. "She will always be in our hearts and will never be forgotten."

**Check out what is new at Circle of Peace School playground!**

Thanks to our friends, supporters, and donors. We are pleased to announce that Circle of Peace School now has a new playground with new equipment. The Students are very excited about their new sliding station and Mary-go-round!



*"Donors thank you for our new play space climbing station, swing, new fence, wall painting and renovating classroom we all you love very much."*  
Irene Mukisa

## UPDATES FROM THE CIRCLE OF PEACE SCHOOL

By MaryLove Bbaale

Greetings from Circle of Peace School: the teachers, staff, students, and the Bbaale family, sadly started the school mourning and grieving for the passing of the Head of the School, Ms. Passy Bbaale Mirembe. We thank everyone who has been very supportive during that time of sorrow.

We thank COPI Board, our supporters, and friends of Circle of Peace School who have and continue to empower our future leaders to excel for academic excellence.

By January 2010, the lower (K-Primary three) and the upper sections (Primary 4-7) were merged and placed on the same floor to avoid rent payment. We reached an agreement with officials of the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports requiring Circle of Peace School to construct a more formal and permanent academic institution within three years. In compliance with the Ministry's mandate, we immediately moved some students from primary five through seven to temporary location while reconditioning the deplorable classrooms of the present facility.

Abraham, Solomon, and Charles Mbaale have begun the making of concrete to get ready for the official commencement of construction project by summer of 2014.

Regarding academic excellence, students of CPS are being assisted with reading and math lessons through tutorial classes. The school received some reading textbooks that may be taken home for a

considerable time to help improved reading skills and general vocabulary. To account for the books, a tracking system has been established allowing students to sign for books at check-outs and check-ins. Students are required to complete a book report for a grade. And for the lower classes, teachers are authorized to read to the students while parents are also encouraged to check out book for improve their acknowledge and to assist their children with their reading assignments.

Extracurricular students are learning how to sew and mend their clothes using the new sewing machines. We have been blessed with one of our alumni who is now a professorial carpenter teaching the male students vocational skills in carpentry. The training has paid off and CPS students are designing and making furniture for the school and for marketing to help underwrite construction cost.

We extend our gratitude to Michelle Friedman, Director of Prime Time Early Learning Center from Long Island, NY who provided sports uniforms to Circle of Peace School female volleyball team. Michelle also purchased instructional materials for the teachers. The school has a new Bell thanks to Isabella Bates from Boston Massachusetts who purchased for the school Bell.

Under scheduled events for the smooth operations of the school, monthly meetings of Board members and teachers are convened on Fridays and Tuesdays respectively.

### Staff and Teachers Reshuffle:

During the period under review,

the following changes were made for the common good of the school:

1. Mr. Hamidu Muwonge was appointed to replace Mr. Morris Muyinza Mbaale as the new Assistant Headmaster.

2. Ms. Harriet Kibuuka and Ms. Madina Bbaale were appointed as new coordinators in charge of supervising the boarding students.

### Names of CPS Teachers:

Harriet Kibuuka - Baby Class  
Maggie Nabuliba - Baby Class  
Phiona Namugwe - Top Class  
Bernadette Mukisa - Primary One  
Mary Nakiboneka - Primary Two



Betty Mwogezi - Primary Three  
Sarah Nakirijja - Primary Four  
Hamidu Muwonge - Primary Five  
Legend:

From the right first row are Harriet, Bernadette, Mary, Solomon, Swazi; back row from the left are Abraham, Hamidu, Phiona, Betty, MaryLove and Solomon.

### School Board Members:

1. Abraham Muwanguzi Bbaale Chairman
2. Michael Kabuye
3. MaryLove Bbaale
4. Sofia Namukasa
5. Harriet Kato
6. Jennifer Nakato
7. Charles Mukasa Bbaale
8. Joshua Seggawa
9. Eric Nusbuga
10. Hamidu Muwonge.

**MaryLove Bbaale Principal/ Headmistress at Circle of Peace School**

## “STUDENTS AT FILLMORE CENTRAL SCHOOL,” MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT PEACE SCHOOL

By Nancy Walters

I am happy and excited to report that our students at Fillmore Central School raised enough money during 2011-2012 school year to purchase two new sewing machines and printer for Circle of Peace School. The machines are able to run with or without electricity which is good since there are times when they do not have electricity.

Our students and faculty hope that these sewing machines will be big help to the Circle Peace

faculty and students. We were thinking that some of the faculty might start making the uniforms and even teaching the young to sew. I hope they write and let us know.

My second graders are continuing to write and keep in touch with students in second grade at Circle of Peace School which is exciting for us. We have received letters and have written letters this year and it's a great experience. We have learned much about the country and its rich cultures.

We continue to support the Circle of Peace School at Fillmore Central School and are thankful for the opportunity to be connected to them. We look forward to getting more letters from the precious students.

**Nancy Walters is a second grade Teacher at Fillmore Central School Buffalo, NY**



### Second Graders provide a Sewing Machine & Multi-function printer



MaryLove and Madina sewing uniforms, Charles taking measurement



Students taking measurements for their new uniforms



Students are excited about Multifunction Printer

Sheila Nakkazi 7 years old, we love you second grade students at Fillmore Central now everyone can have their own copy of homework thank you.

Jordana Nattabi 8 years old things are much faster and easier long live our new friends. We're making beads for you for Christmas.

## PROGRESS AND SUCCESS OF A POULTRY FARM

by Abraham Bbaale

We are thankful to our donors, supporters, alumni, parents, and students who have made the David Davenport Chicken farm a success. In 2011, we were blessed by the David Projects for Peace Foundation with a \$10,000 grant to build a poultry farm at the Circle of Peace School. David Davenport, a student from the University of Richmond who received the grant on our behalf was able to travel to Uganda with the grant living at the Circle of Peace School to supervise the project.

We began with building two coops with the purchase of 500 chicks. The main goal of the project was to establish a sustainable poultry business with the capacity to grow and generate needed income for the Circle of Peace School and for the feeding of our students.

On behalf of Circle of Peace School board, staff, faculty, and the Bbaale family, I am very pleased to report that in



February 2013 we purchased 1,100 chicks at the DDCF for the school we're very excited on the progress of the poultry.

February 2013, we were able to purchase 1,000 chicks and we have expanded to five coops plus one sick bay where the sick chickens are kept to receive proper attention. We're now working around the clock caring for the sick like our human babies. The expansion was necessary to accommodate to growing population in age and numbers of the chickens. The chicken became heavy as they matured and they deserve a comfortable place to stay and sleep. It was certainly not healthy for chicks to sleep on the ground inside the coop. Again that was the reason to expand.

Since we needed a room to grow we decided to build and to minimize the cost, we made our own bricks to began the building of the coops. We're grateful to St. Andrews' Episcopal Church, COPI Board of directors and friends of Circle of Peace School from the United States who funded the cost of roofing, windows, doors, and floors for the completion of the project. COPI recently purchased a 1000 liter water tank, ten drinkers, ten feeders, chicken feed and vaccinations.

Chickens must have plenty of fresh clean water. By purchasing a new tank the cost (continued)





Charles and Abraham transporting the chicks to the David Davenport Chicken farm



After two months old



Composting/recycling they're using the chicken dung as manure for the crops at the farm as natural fertilizer, the chickens' dungs helps to improve the soil texture as well as hold the water better. Circle of Peace School strongly encourages their students and parents to recycle.



MaryLove Bbaale making a formal presentation of fresh eggs from the poultry farm to the CPS students, teachers and staff before breakfast and the start of school.

of water has reduced significantly as well as the cost of fetching water from the valley. We have installed an irrigation water harvest system around the coops and a 1000 liter tank is now installed.

It has been 18 months since the poultry farm was established we believe that in five years we will have a major operation hoping that we can even hire workers from the community. Currently, I am managing the

poultry farm, with Solomon Bbaale working full-time and Charles Bbaale working part-time however, none of us is a paid employee Circle of Peace School is not capable of salaries.

Currently, we're mainly focused on making the Circle of Peace School more financially sustainable, expose our students to small business management and teach these invaluable skills and improving our student's diet. We believe in two years we will begin

to get a salary from the poultry farm. The chicken farm will be able to fully support the education of students at CPS support itself and also pay it's employees. In case you are interested in sponsor and donation toward the poultry farm please contact COPI we're 501c3 all your contribution will be tax deductible.

**Abraham M. Bbaale is in charge of operation of the David Davenport Poultry Farm at the Circle of Peace School**

## Second Grade Class at St. Andrew's School



## 2ND GRADERS AT ST. ANDREWS SCHOOL BELIEVE THEY HAVE SIMILAR NEEDS AS CPS

by Kathy Tappen



In 1894, St. Andrew's School in Richmond Virginia was founded was founded by Grace Arents, a visionary social reformer who recognized the need for free, quality education in the city. She believed in providing the poor with academic, social and spiritual opportunities as a means of lifting families out of a life of poverty.

One hundred years later, half way around the world in Kampala, Uganda a visionary teacher named Joanita, saw a similar need for a school for children who were being denied an education because their families were too poor to pay school fees. In 1994, she founded Circle of Peace School.

Fast forward to the summer of 2012 when Dr. Cynthia Weldon-Lassiter, Head of School at St Andrew's School in Richmond, Virginia, travelled to Uganda and visited Circle of Peace School in Kampala. There she found a school much like St. Andrew's School, a school with a mission to educate children of limited resources, a school where the teachers and administrators worked together

to create a nurturing, safe, and healthy environment in which children can thrive physically, emotionally, socially, and academically.

She returned to Richmond, Virginia with a memory card full of pictures from Circle of Peace School, including the pictures of the students in Primary 2, the equivalent of second grade in United States. Uganda would be the focal point of the cultural study in second grade. We wanted the children in my class to have an opportunity to not only learn about a different culture, through literature, and multi-media resources, but also, and more importantly to learn about another culture first-hand from children their own age, by fostering friendships. (continued)

The sixteen boys and girls my second grade at St. Andrew's School were introduced to Circle of Peace School through the pictures Dr. Weldon-Lassiter shared with the school during Chapel. They were thrilled with the opportunity to have pen pals their own age at the school, in a country that they had begun to study and found fascinating. As each child received a picture of their pen pal, wrote their first letters, and learned more about Circle of Peace School, something magical happened – empathy blossomed. The children began questioning, wanting to know what they could do to help their new friends. Not knowing the best way that we could help, I invited Ms. Senoga to visit our class.

We were excited to welcome Ms. Senoga to our class after Christmas break. She had just returned from Uganda, and told us how much our pen pals enjoy their letters. She shared her personal story about how she started the school, shared more pictures of the children, and answered the many questions the children had about how they might best be able to help.

After the visit, the children were even more inspired and adamant about helping their friends in Uganda. First, they wanted to make sure that their friends could stay in school. They had listened to Ms. Senoga as she told them about the school's chicken farm, and how the school raises the chickens to lay eggs that are sold to help fund the education of the children. The second graders knew that they could help buy more chickens since \$5.00 for a baby chick didn't seem too expensive. Next, they could not stop thinking about their friends not having shoes – how could any child not have shoes? They knew that they had shoes which they had outgrown and wanted to send them to Uganda, and they realized that their friends in Richmond had shoes they'd outgrown too, so they might be able to send enough shoes for the whole school.

Within a matter of days, the children and I created a plan to collect pocket change for chickens and shoes for their friends. Though collection has already begun in the classroom, in Chapel, the second grade class asked that the whole school help them in the months of April and

May by filling the *Change for Chicks* jar and by contributing any gently used shoes they had outgrown to their *Shoes for Friends* collection.

To date, on their own, the sixteen children in my second grade class have collected more than \$50 in loose change toward the donation of one chicken in the name of each of their fifteen pen pals. They have also gathered several bags of gently used shoes. As we return from spring break, we are excited to have all of the children and families of St. Andrew's School help us help our pen pals and friends at Circle of Peace School.

As a teacher, I find it to be both a blessing and a tribute to the founders of both schools to witness the power that academic, social, and spiritual education provides to the children as they value, respect, and love one another across the thousands of miles that separate Richmond, Virginia from Kampala, Uganda. It is undeniable that the like-minded missions of our schools and the hearts of our students are forever connected.

**Mrs. Kathy Tappen is a Second Grade Teacher at St. Andrew's School**

## Here are some of the accomplishment at Circle of Peace School



**CPS Soccer Team**



**2011 CPS received new desks**



**CPS Car washing bay**

## JOIN COPI SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

by Joanita Senoga

"Planet Green offers a recycle fundraising program for schools, organizations, individuals and businesses that would like to funds for causes they care about and help save the environment" COPI has partnered with Planet Green Recycle is raise funds while saving the environment! We are collecting the following items: Inkjet Cartridges, Cell phones, Pagers, ODAs,

Mobile Hot Spot, iPods, MP3 players, Ipads, Tablets, GPS, EBook Readers, Radar, Consoles, Calculators, Video Games, Accessories, and Handhelds

Spread the word to family, friends and coworkers. Please contact us for pick up or to deliver these items. Either by phone or email 804-859-1241 circleofpeaceinternational@gmail.com



*Together we can make a difference!*

**Joanita Senoga is a COPI President.**



Before, During and After  
Construction at the Circle of  
Peace School February 2013



*Before the renovation*



During construction Solomon and Charles are in charge of the project. They're working hand in hand with the workers



*After renovation we have a new play ground, new floor, new windows. Teachers now have new desks. All classrooms are repainted.*



## CIRCLE OF PEACE SCHOOL INVOLVED IN PEACE STUDY

*by Barbara Dennis*

Dr. Chalmer Thompson and I (Dr. Barbara Dennis), from Indiana University, along with colleagues from the Psychology Department at Kyambogo University (KYU) headed by Mr. S.S. Auma-Okumo, will be collecting stories of peace and conflict resolution from the students at the Circle of Peace School. The research will involve talking with children in small groups to hear stories that are commonly told and experiences from their lives. Dr. Thompson has been involved with the Psychology Department at KYU for over ten years. During that time several programs such as counseling psychology were developed. Also, KYU has responsibility for all of the teacher training programs in Uganda. Currently, we are working to develop Uganda's first Ph.D. degree in Counseling Psychology. Our colleagues at KYU have expressed interest in developing peace and social justice approaches in counseling psychology and in conducting research on related topics with Ugandans in an effort to promote peace in the country. On our visits to the Circle of Peace Primary School, we were graciously welcomed by the Bbaale family and each of the

classes. The teachers are working diligently to provide a thorough education. This research project is timely in that Uganda education officials are trying to develop a peace curriculum for primary schools. It is our intention to produce a book of the children's stories which can be used by teachers for teaching about peace. This book will also be used by KYU faculty and staff in their teacher preparation programs. Additionally, the research and the book, itself, have an opportunity to help shape the Uganda national policy on peace curriculum.

Dr. Chalmer Thompson was awarded a Peace Grant from Indiana University to cover some of the costs associated with conducting the research and producing the book. On my recent visit to Kampala, I was able to meet with Mary Love Bbaale and the Head Teacher. We discussed the goals and procedures of the study. I also worked with faculty and staff at

KYU to prepare for the research. Research partners from KYU will go to The Circle of Peace School to meet with small groups of children and hear their stories. The stories will be transcribed for the book. Additional analysis will be done with the stories so that we gain a clear understanding of how the children are conceptualizing peace.

We are excited to be part of this project and we are so honored to have The Circle of Peace Nursery and Primary School as the place we will conduct the study. On my recent visit, I was able to go into each classroom and see the learning that was taking place.

School administrators are putting in a lot of effort to enhance the curriculum and learning environment across an already strongly, dedicated educational situation.

***Dr. Barbara Dennis is a professor at University of Indiana***



## ON THE LOSS OF BOARD MEMBER JAMES E. GWIN

by Rochelle Colestock

The Circle of Peace International lost a true friend early this year when Jim Gwin passed away. He began serving on the board in 2009 after he heard about the struggles to meet the day-to-day challenges of educating children in an impoverished area. Jim shared Joanita's vision of expanding the facility so that more children could get a free education.

He served as treasurer because he believed that all children need a good educational foundation and the COPI mission of expanding those opportunities for Ugandan children was a worthy cause.

Jim had retired from the University of Richmond last summer after many years as a librarian at Boatwright, had the following comments about Jim

"I have known Jim Gwin for many years at the University of Richmond. Jim was a good friend and good family man. He was good at his job and, from what I could tell very easy to work with. I worked with Jim on several levels when he was Acting Director of University Libraries to President of the University Club and always found him sincere in his beliefs and actions. Jim enjoyed his

colleagues at the University of Richmond and they respected him. He always had a smile and kind word and there were few he did not call by name. Jim served as treasurer of the Circle of Peace School in Uganda and was very dedicated to its mission and success."

COPI and CPS will deeply miss James, he was one of the finest person I know he had a big heart inside out. Not only Jim was a COPI Board member, he was also mentor, and big supporter.

*Excerpted from the Richmond Times Dispatch*

Jim died on Saturday, February 23, 2013, peacefully and at home surrounded by his loving family. He was preceded in death by his mother, Juanita Elizabeth; and his father, Madison Taylor. Jim is survived by his wife of 27 years, Sheena Mackenzie; his two wonderful daughters, Colleen and Elizabeth; and his future son-in-law, Ian Puckett; by his sister, Jean Dake and her husband, David; two aunts, Betty Smith (Don) and Becky Kilmer (Richard); and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. Jim was born and raised in Chattanooga, Tenn., graduated (BS) from the University of Chattanooga, received his MLS from Emory University, and then began his professional career at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

It was at the Boatwright Memorial Library at the University of Richmond where he selflessly gave of his energy, his insights and his knowledge, and where for 37 years he shared his love of learning with countless students in the library or in the classroom. Outside of the classroom, Jim was a great mentor to many people. He also held several offices with the Boards of the Virginia Library Association and the Potomac Technical Processing Librarians. Jim was a man of deep faith, and he served and worshipped at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Jim took tremendous joy in trying new things, was respectful of and honored the past, and was tireless in his quest for learning, including receiving a MPA from Virginia Commonwealth University, which he received in 1984. His ready store of information and amazing trivia on numerous subjects delighted and amazed those who knew him. His love of music and theater, and his pursuit and sharing of knowledge will be deeply missed, but his abiding love of family and friends will be a gift we will treasure forever.



***"You will always be in our hearts and will not be forgotten."***

## CIRCLE OF PEACE INTERNATIONAL

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Circle of Peace International

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email us at  
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"We're grateful to Betty Allen  
who provided for students meals  
the month of May 2013" *MaryLove  
Bbaale*

If you're interested in feeding  
these students for day, week or  
month sign up with COPI



*Irene and James standing in front of  
there school sign*



## UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

### COPI to hold a Yard Sale to support the Circle of Peace School!

Fairfield Common Shopping Center 4869 Nine  
Mile Road Richmond, VA 23223

July 13, 2013 at 7:30am till 6pm come support  
the our cause. If you have any items to donate  
to our yard sale or need assistance to deliver  
items please contact us either by phone or  
email. 804-859-1241

[Circleofpeaceinternational@gmail.com](mailto:Circleofpeaceinternational@gmail.com)



### Annual Fundraiser

October 5, 2012

3:00 — 6:00 p.m.

Hermitage Country Club  
Goochland, VA

*Theme of this year's fundraiser  
"Welcome to Our Classroom".*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Friend us on facebook [circleofpeacei](https://www.facebook.com/circleofpeacei) our new website :

[www.circleofpeaceinternational.org](http://www.circleofpeaceinternational.org)

*COPI is a 501(c)(3) certified non-profit organization. All donations go to the Circle of Peace School.  
There are no administrative fees, and all the services we provide are 100% volunteer.*