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# Support for The Elderly Person (STEP) Sep' 2015

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## **The One Where Age is Just a Number!**

Elderly folk are one of the groups in greatest need in Uganda. There is no welfare or support structure for them, many have lost their entire families through HIV/AIDS and charity funding is concentrated on more 'photogenic' children's causes. This means that they are often left to fend on their own.



STEP offer a sustainable lifestyle for these elderly people who have nothing left. They offer them support, shelter, work and an income so that they have the means to carry on living. Using low labour intensive occupation, such as pig farming, STEP offers dignity to these people that are in such danger of being forgotten.

## Where your money is being spent

So we left this program back in June with an amazing piggery and two female pigs, so you can guess where this is going. Yep you got it the females are about to burst and are expecting to have litters of 9 each!! That's 18 little piglets running around, ready to be feed up for 3 months before being sold off to bring money into the Kyabakuza Bakadde Tweekwembe Association.



UGM runners building the piggery

Your money (400,000 UGX - £75) will help with the first 2 months of high protein feed after suckling is complete and the vital vaccinations to ensure they get the best start in life. The association will then sit together and with guidance from Beatrice decide on the best course of action, how many pigs to sell? How many females to keep? How should the community benefit from the money made? And which pig to pass on?

Yes that's right, the Kijjabwemi elderly association is coming to visit the piggery and meet with the group leaders so as to fully understand the UGM piggery project. After this sensitization has taken place we will be able to start the program again in Kijjabewmi helping them build a piggery before they buy their own and one of the Kyabakuza groups.

This simple pass-on system has been pioneered successfully by many organisations but where ours is different is that we are supporting the elderly. The forgotten group that get overlooked by their own government and by international aid! Well not anymore!

There is no reason that with funding from the Uganda International Marathon runners that this program can't just keep on growing helping more and more elderly people be independent and have a voice in their community!

In the video you will see Emma (chairperson) and Salongo (treasurer) discussing how the piggery has helped them and will continue to do so in the future. Thank you Runners!!

