

# ACTION FOR INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## #UGM2016

### STRUCTURE FOR A MORE INTEGRATED COMMUNITY

September '16 Project Update



## ABOUT ACTION FOR INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

AICOD is a uniquely based organisation in Masaka that doesn't rely on an institution to do its work but focuses on home/community based support for its beneficiaries of mentally and physically disabled youth.



AICOD and Andy Bownds with one of the beneficiaries of the organisation

Run by Benon, an inspirational role model who has known first-hand the prejudice people with disability suffer in Uganda, he and his team reach rural communities in the Masaka region. With limited resources they show families that they are not alone in their challenges of caring for people with disability and provide training on best practice in care.

Training is a vital area as, due to a lack of understanding (not care), Benon and his team often find people with disabilities in horrifying conditions, tied to trees or kept in cages hidden away. But, with their support the gradual process of reintegrating these individuals into their communities can start.

## Structure for a More Integrated Community

The marathon is going to support AICOD by increasing their reach and providing a clearer structure to their program. A more specialised 4x4 vehicle is required to allow the team to continue their work all year round and to also enable transport for the disabled people to meet each other once a week, at a agreed beneficiaries home.

The service that the transport will provide is vital for community aspect of AICOD as the weekly meeting helps the disabled people create a community of their own and provides extremely important rest bite care for their family members.



Bonnie is the disabled 9 year old, with autism, who repeatedly runs away from home. The family feel they must tie him in the garden for his own safety.

Beneficiaries help to make the program sustainable by giving in kind what they can, whether this is natural material for assistive tools, food for the rest bite days and their home once a week as a rest bite centre. The marathon is also helping to link them with local business to create working partnerships where sustainable donations come from within the community.

But we need your support to get this started and start changing the lives of these forgotten non-institutionalised people of Uganda.

## SEPTEMBER '16 PROJECT UPDATE

AICOD has been the project that has seen the greatest individual change within any one person we have ever seen within the marathon support.

Bonnie the disabled 9 year old boy who AICOD found tied to a tree, due to the lack of understanding by his guardian grandmother, has now been officially diagnosed with autism and epilepsy. He is now having 2 monthly check ups at the Masaka referral hospital and is receiving the right medication for his condition. His personality has also completely changed, the creation of the playground within now fenced grounds of his home has meant Bonnie has a new found freedom. He now does not rip of his clothes in distress, as he did before, and he's often found playing on his swing with the neighbour's children and his sister.



The next step for Bonnie and other disabled children and young people in the area is to make this community based work sustainable. The Uganda Marathon, in partnership with AICOD have started implementing a plan - AICOD has been able to use Bonnie's success story to be able to rally 3 community groups of other disabled families together. These groups, each numbering in 5 families, have started saving schemes that will enable any member to take loans from the group to support their disabled dependent and or create an income generating program for their whole family. This SACCO based scheme has proved extremely successful in the rural areas of other countries and, with funding from the Uganda Marathon coming in the form of quarterly matched donations, it will have a huge impact here.

In order to facilitate this, the AICOD team are spending more and more time out in the community supporting families. Therefore, in order to create their work sustainable, a mushroom growing



project is the chosen business they would like to start. This can help generate money that can cover the small running costs AICOD needs to continue to support these remote families.

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!**