

Community Reading PhotoBook



Background

LEADING CHANGE UGANDA (LCU) is non-governmental organization, which started in January 2013 by a group of young people who wanted to create the change they want to see in the world among children and women. LCU is inspired by the fact that the world should be a better place for everyone, regardless of their sex, age, religion, colour and nationality. LCU is a not for profit, nonpartisan youth led non-governmental organization based in Kampala and Wakiso districts. The organization is fully registered with the NGO Board and Uganda Registration Services Bureau. The mandate of the organization is to create positive change in the lives of children and women. LCU strives to empower children and women to effectively participate in their social economic development through training, access to education, information and other basic needs to improve their standard of living.

Many communities in Uganda cannot access education, information and basic needs. This is because most people live below the poverty line, staying in slums and villages. At LCU, we understand that education is key to getting people out of the debilitating and dehumanizing clutches of poverty. Hence, education is at the forefront of our mission.

Access to education, particularly for the children in the poorest of poor families, is not always available. LCU is equipped to pass on knowledge and skills to children, youth and women, enabling them to live better lives. The youth and children are Uganda's future tomorrow, and women are the mothers of the nation who bring life into this wonderful world.

At LCU, knowledge and skills are acquired through a variety of training, such as entrepreneurship, financial management, consumerism, ICT and environment. The communities are also provided with basic needs such as clothes, school fees and food. As a youth-led organization, we allow enthusiastic young people to share their skills with other youths who have not had that chance. By sharing our skills, we are holding hands together to fight and end early child marriages, high youth unemployment, youth and community illiteracy, poverty, environmental degradation, and improve markets and livelihoods.

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The Community Reading Club

The Community Reading club was started in 2017 and it has about 50 children who are taught how to read, count and write. The children are equipped with personal development (5D Cycle of Self-Discovery), crafts and games, sports, storytelling, community service, counselling and guidance among others. The club provides an opportunity to children to interact and learn from one another.

The Community Reading Club project focuses on promoting learning skills, listening skills and enhancing the talents of the children through sports, music, dance, drama, art and crafts. Over the past years, LCU realized that many of the children in the local communities where it operates, majorly participating in the Smile of the Child project were not performing well at school. This was mainly due to the lack of knowledge and understanding of the English language used at school and yet it is the official language of Uganda. As a result, LCU created the Community Reading Club where the children's school work is supplemented with reading, writing and counting skills, among others thus providing extra support towards the weak subjects at school.

Since 2017, the children have been supported every Saturday by volunteers from the Wangari Women Project for example Harriet Nalwonga who volunteered her services in 2017, and Nabukalu Joyce who volunteered from 2018 to 2021. Micheal Nkalubo and Mackline Nattembo who are part of the Smile of the Child Project have also volunteered to support their fellow club members.

In this community club, the children are counseled and advised on how to keep safe and stay in school. Since 2018, there has been an improvement in class performance of the children who are part of the Club, based on their report cards and the feedback received from their teachers. The confidence of the children in speaking the English language has been boosted. The Club has provided an opportunity to children who have not been going to school to learn how to read, write and count. Through storytelling sessions, the children's listening and concentration skills have been enhanced, thus improving their ability to understand, listen and express themselves in English.





Through the Club, the children have been taught practical skills such as personal development, personal hygiene, financial management, dental cleaning and maintenance and about 100 children were given toothpaste and tooth brushes during Christmas celebrations in 2018.

The club lacks furniture, sports materials qualified teachers and teaching materials to benefit the club members

During COVID-19 pandemic, the club became a necessity for the children in these communities because of the closure of schools. Hence, the club helped the children to stay active through sports, reading, providing psychological support and hope for the future till the schools were re-opened by the government of Uganda in 2022.









If you are interested in supporting the work of LCU, Please feel free to get in touch.



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