

Siblings Form 4 Oneworld To Aid Education in Uganda



Photo: Courtesy 4 Oneworld

WHEN THE MEMBERS of Funktion agreed that the band should show its support of 4 Oneworld, Tara Stubbs, the organization's executive director, rejoiced.

"I met Jeremy [Reisig] and Andrew [Schrock] in 2009, and right way they wanted to get on board and help," says Stubbs. "They started by donating one dollar from the sale of each CD, and they have played at our annual fundraiser for the last two years. They are loyal supporters."

The mission of 4 Oneworld is to provide educational resources to schools in the developing world. The idea started in 2005 when Tara Stubbs, a professional photographer who grew up in Vicksburg, got lost in Kampala, Uganda, where she was doing a photo shoot.

Wandering through the streets of the city, Stubbs was befriended by a 12-year-old orphan named Norman who took her to her destination. After she returned to the United States, Stubbs and Norman kept up a correspondence by mail.

When Stubbs offered to help the boy in some way, he asked if she could help pay for the cost of his education. Many of the students at the St. Kizito Secondary School, which Norman attended, were former child soldiers or AIDS orphans

and most were impoverished. Stubbs began communicating with the school's headmistress and learned that computers topped the school's wish list.

"I didn't have much money, but I had time and energy," says Stubbs, "so I started a not-for-profit." By the end of 2005, Tara and her brother, Adam Stubbs, 35, owner of Advantage Communications Enterprises in Kalamazoo, had turned the idea into a 501(c)(3), and developed some ambitious plans.

The first five-year plan called for computers to serve the students at St. Kizito. With the help of many individual supporters, some businesses and, of course, Funktion, by 2010; 4 Oneworld had met its goal, providing more than 40 computers, Internet service and a computer teacher.

The St. Kizito program is now self-sufficient and the school, now with more than 1,000 students, was recently cited by UNESCO for having one of the best computer literacy programs in Uganda. So 4 Oneworld has moved on to its next project, in the tiny rural village of Kibooba.

The 110 students at Kibooba Village Primary School are extremely impoverished, says Tara Stubbs, and the

Band members and board members of 4 OneWorld join together a good cause: bottom row, from left, Hugh Little, Adam Stubbs, Tara Stubbs, Melissa Montague and Andrew Briggs. Top Row, from left, Bob Lakey, Andrew Schrock, Neal Conway Jeremy Reisig, Liz Semaan, Andrew Bruex, Sean Reisig and Terrence Massey.

school "needed everything — operating expenses, textbooks, furniture."

Again, 4 Oneworld's goal is sustainability, so they introduced income-generating projects, including cows (whose milk will help pay for teachers) and a garden (to provide school lunches). The organization has also bought desks, chairs and books, as well as doing construction for the school.

Like Funktion, Tara and Adam Stubbs and the rest of the board members of 4 Oneworld see their opportunities to make a difference in the world beyond Michigan.

"The developing world has the greatest need," says Adam Stubbs, "and the developed world, where many live prosperously, has the resources. We must share these resources and advantages, as well as help educate those who need it most." 📷



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