



# THE DOBBYN FOUNDATION

MAKING SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN OF EAST AFRICA



## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with great pride and excitement that we move into our third year as a 501(c)(3) public charity and second school year of educational scholarships. We started this organization with the fundamental belief that education is crucial to economic, social and personal development as well as a key component in breaking the cycle of poverty in East Africa.

We believed that providing education to motivated children would produce substantial dividends for the students, their family and their community. After just one year of sponsoring students, we can already see the impact an education can make individually and collectively.

The letters from our four scholars over the past year were full of exuberance, passion and gratitude for giving them an opportunity to make a difference in their lives and the lives of their families.

With the start of the Ugandan school year in February, we continue to support our four original scholars while providing additional scholarships to five new students. Our commitment to each child will continue to be for all four years of secondary schooling. We will also continue to conduct site visits in Africa in order to visit our scholars and ensure the highest level of organizational efficiency.

We have relied on hundreds of people for donations and we thank you. In the following pages you will see our organization's progress and the progress of our scholars. In 2008, we will continue to expand our fundraising efforts and our organization as a whole. We hope that you will continue to support the Dobbyn Foundation and children of East Africa.

On behalf of the Board of Directors we thank you for your support and look forward to continued success in 2008.

Kevin Bouchard, Executive Director

*Pictured above, l to r: Kevin, Irene, Annett, & Ann Marie*



# THE DOBBYN FOUNDATION

## NEWS FROM OUR SCHOLARS

www.dobbynfoundation.org

Spring 2008

info@dobbynfoundation.org

### SCHOLAR UPDATE

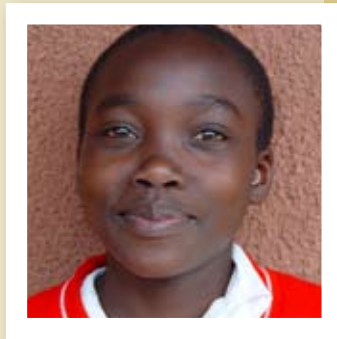
Thanks to the hard work of our scholars and the generosity of our donors, all four of the Dobbyn Foundation's scholars completed their first year of secondary schooling with success. Irene, Annet, Daniel, and Josephant are all looking forward to their second year of secondary school, which began February 2008. Our site visit, along with student letters and report cards, indicate that these talented youths are not only receiving a good education, but that they are thriving. While excerpts of scholars' letters and grades are included below, the full content of their letters and report cards can be viewed at [www.dobbynfoundation.org](http://www.dobbynfoundation.org). Stay tuned for further updates on our original four scholars as well as information on the five new scholars we have added this year. We look forward to seeing all nine scholars progress throughout their secondary schooling. We also look forward to adding more scholars each year as our organization continues to grow.

#### Irene Tusiimi

Age: 12  
Siblings: 3 Sisters  
Favorite Music: Gospel  
School: St. Maria Goretti

Irene recently completed her first year as a Dobbyn Foundation scholar. Her favorite subject is English and she earned high marks in both Mathematics and Literature. Irene would like to become a nurse after her schooling. Like her fellow scholars, Irene was selected in primary school based on her grades and the recommendation of Afrokaps, a community based organization made up of local educators and community leaders.

*"I am very happy for your love to me and your care. Thank you so very much. God bless you a hundred times even more than a hundred."*



#### Annet Kabagahi

Age: 13  
Siblings: 4 Sisters, 1 Brother  
Favorite Music: Gospel  
School: St. Maria Goretti

Annet's favorite subjects are Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, and Geography. She earned high marks in many subjects this year, particularly in Chemistry, History, Geography, Literature and Commerce. Annet also loves playing volleyball and basketball at school. While she was recently ill with a severe fever, Annet is back at school and doing well.

*"The main reason for the letter is to thank you for the help you are giving me. Our parents have advised us to perform well in the coming years, we will try our best in order to make you happy about our performance as we are also happy about your help."*

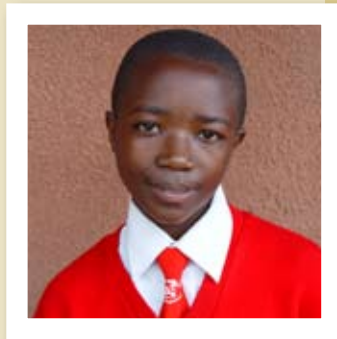


#### Daniel Busobozi

Age: 12  
Favorite Music: Country  
School: Nyakasura

Daniel recently completed his first year as a Dobbyn Foundation scholar. His favorite subjects are Physics, Biology, Chemistry and English since they "teach me how to stay health[y] from diseases." This year he earned very strong marks in Biology, Physics, History and Agriculture. Daniel loves playing cricket and football and swimming with his friends.

*"I am very happy at school because I am studying with students with different tribes, languages, cultures, and I learn from them as they learn from me."*



#### Josephant Kugonza

Age: 12  
School: Nyakasura

Josephant recently finished his first year as a Dobbyn Foundation scholar. He earned high marks in Biology, History, Geography, Agriculture and Music. Josephant enjoys spending his free time swimming and playing basketball and soccer. His favorite European soccer team is Arsenal in England. Josephant also enjoys praying each day.

*"Thank you very much and God bless you. You help me so much because of the following reasons: It was my first time to receive books, it was my first time to sleep in a house with electricity and the most thing is it was my first time to study from a boarding school."*





## UGANDA: EDUCATION SYSTEM

The modern Uganda educational system was adopted when the country gained independence from the British in 1962. The system is comprised of seven years of Primary School, four years of Secondary School, and two years of High School. Viewing education as crucial to improving the lives of its citizens, Uganda has worked hard in recent years to increase educational opportunities through programs to increase adult literacy rates and especially through its Universal Primary Education (UPE) program. One of the first UPE programs in East Africa, Uganda created the program in 1997 allowing four children in each family to attend all seven years of primary school for free.

The implementation of Uganda's UPE was followed by a tripling in enrollment among children of primary school age, from about 2 million children in 1986 to over 6 million children in 1999. In 2004, over 85% of school age children were enrolled.

In spite of these programs, Uganda's education system still faces major challenges. With increasing enrollment rates, classrooms have swelled, in some schools to roughly one hundred students per classroom. The quality of Uganda's primary education is now being questioned as rosters increase and children drop out. In addition, only 40% of primary students are able to continue their education into secondary school. The Dobbyn Foundation believes it is imperative that students continue beyond primary schooling.

To learn more about Uganda's educational system and the work of the Dobbyn Foundation please visit [www.dobbynfoundation.org](http://www.dobbynfoundation.org).

## KEY FACTS: WOMEN AND EDUCATION

- Approximately 584 million women in the world remain illiterate today
- More than 40% of women in Africa do not have access to basic education
- If a girl is educated for 6 years or more, as an adult her prenatal care, postnatal care and childbirth survival rates, will dramatically improve
- Educated mothers immunize their children 50% more often than mothers who are not educated
- AIDS spreads twice as quickly among uneducated girls than among girls that have even some schooling
- Children of women with 5 years of primary school education have a survival rate 40% higher than children of women with no education

Source: UN Millennium Project 2002-2006

# FIRST ANNUAL BOSTON FUNDRAISER

The Dobbyn Foundation's 1st Annual Boston Event, held at the Bell in Hand in downtown Boston on May 23, 2007 was a true success. Through the participation of many Dobbyn supporters, this inaugural fundraiser was able to raise nearly \$1900 for secondary school children in East Africa. It was an exciting evening with over 75 Dobbyn supporters in attendance. During the night attendees mingled with friends and new acquaintances, learned about the work of the Dobbyn Foundation while talking to Dobbyn Board Members, and danced to the music of a live band.



Kevin Bouchard, J.T. & Emily Miller, Becca O'Connell, Ann Marie Bouchard

"We were very happy with the turnout at the event and believe that this is the beginning of our organization becoming recognized throughout the Greater Boston area. Each event and fundraising opportunity gives us the ability to tell our story, with the end result being assistance for as many children as possible," stated Executive Director Kevin Bouchard. "Our organization is looking forward to the next scheduled event in Boston."

Special thanks must go to the Bell in Hand Tavern who donated both space and food. We would also like to send a big thanks to the many supporters who attended. We look forward to seeing you at our next event.

## HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

The Dobbyn Foundation was selected to participate in the Harvard Business School Social Enterprise Board Fellows Program for the 2007-2008 academic year. This program pairs socially minded Harvard Business School students with Boston based non-profits in order to provide MBA talent to assist with various organizational projects.

We are pleased to announce that Aduke Thelwell (HBS '09) will be working alongside the Dobbyn Foundation Board of Directors on a number of selected projects to benefit the Dobbyn Foundation's mission and mandate. The Dobbyn Foundation is very pleased to be a part of the HBS Social Enterprise Program and we welcome Aduke to the Board.

## ONLINE NEWS

In January of this year, The Dobbyn Foundation launched its YouTube non-profit account ([www.youtube.com/dobbynfoundation](http://www.youtube.com/dobbynfoundation)). Visitors to the profile will be treated to an introductory video about the foundation and have the ability to donate online via GoogleCheckout. The video features images from Kevin and Anne Marie's trip to Uganda, original music by José Ayerve and narration by Elli Gray, two Dobbyn Foundation supporters. YouTube and GoogleCheckout have joined together to assist non-profit fundraising efforts and we are honored to be a part of the emerging program.

If you've not done so already, please visit our site ([www.dobbynfoundation.org](http://www.dobbynfoundation.org)) to subscribe to our email newsletter, which will be sent out several times each year with updates on our work.

Please keep an eye out for a new version of The Dobbyn Foundation web site later this year.

### UPCOMING EVENT:

A night of New England music featuring... Bullyclub, Elli Gray, Jose Ayerve/Spouse

North Star Music Café,  
225 Congress St. Portland, Maine  
[www.northstarmusiccafe.com](http://www.northstarmusiccafe.com)

Friday June 6, 2008 at 7 p.m. \$10 door/\$7 students

## ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Our goal for this year's Annual Fund Campaign is to raise \$15,000 by May 1, 2008. Fundraising letters, along with the new Dobbyn Foundation brochure, were mailed to over 250 households. The new brochure can be viewed on our web site or requested by mail.

"We hope to surpass last year's total of \$12,000 raised from our first campaign. We have seen a very positive response so far and hope that the generosity of our donors continues with this year's effort," stated Executive Director Kevin Bouchard.

To date, The Dobbyn Foundation has raised nearly \$13,000 from the current campaign. Please help us reach our goal of \$15,000 by sending a donation today.

Donate online:  
[www.dobbynfoundation.org/donate.html](http://www.dobbynfoundation.org/donate.html)

Donate by check:  
The Dobbyn Foundation  
P.O. Box 972,  
Watertown, MA 02471 USA

# BOARD MEMBERS TRAVEL TO UGANDA



Ann Marie, Principal of Kasiisi Primary School, & Kevin

Ann Marie and Kevin Bouchard, the Secretary and Executive Director respectively, visited Uganda in March 2007. While in Uganda, Ann Marie and Kevin visited four primary schools and two secondary schools around the area of Kibale National Park, near the city of Fort Portal. During their week in Fort Portal, Kevin and Ann Marie also met with Afrokaps, the Ugandan based non-profit partner organization of The Dobbyn Foundation. As a community based group, Afrokaps nominates potential scholars and advises The Dobbyn Foundation on the educational needs of the community.

“Our trip to Uganda was a wonderful opportunity to not only meet the children we are supporting in person but also to visit the schools, teachers and partner

organization on the ground to ensure our organizational processes are effective, efficient, and adding value to the local community,” said Kevin Bouchard.

While Kevin had lived and worked in Uganda before, this was Ann Marie’s first trip to Africa and the experience left a profound impression on her. “Meeting our Dobbyn Foundation scholars in person, as well as the other children at the schools we visited made me even more determined to make The Dobbyn Foundation successful and to commit my time to such a worthy cause.”

The Dobbyn Foundation hopes to continue field visits to Africa each year. We believe these visits are essential to the success of our organization and our scholars.

A photo gallery of Kevin and Ann Marie’s March 2007 trip to Fort Portal can be viewed on our web site. In addition, if you are interested in hearing more about Kevin and Ann Marie’s trip please feel free to contact either of them directly at (kbouchard@dobbynfoundation.org) or +1.617.458.9619.



## SEWICKLEY, PA EVENT

On January 11, 2008, the Dobbyn Foundation hosted a fundraiser in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, a community north of Pittsburgh. Thirty attendees came out on a chilly Friday night for dessert and coffee at the Edgeworth Club.

Board member Ian Isherwood (pictured above) gave a brief presentation regarding the foundation’s mission and recent achievements. The night provided an opportunity for Dobbyn supporters to mingle with one another and lend their support.

“The people who came out to support the Dobbyn Foundation made this a wonderful evening. Their interest in our scholars and mission was uplifting,” said Ian Isherwood.

Special thanks go to event hosts Jack and Judy Isherwood and volunteer Samantha Isherwood, who donated their time and resources to making it such a success. Thanks also go to the many supporters who came out to support the Dobbyn Foundation

## TWO NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE BOARD

The Dobbyn Foundation is pleased to welcome two new members to the Board of Directors. At the board’s annual meeting this fall, Virginia Dooley and Joshua Smith were elected unanimously to join the seven current members. Virginia and Josh will join Ann Marie Bouchard, Kevin Bouchard, Dary Goodrich, Ian Isherwood, Daniel Jewett, Stephen Quirk, and Daniel Sullivan on the board.

Virginia currently works at The Emerging Markets Foundation (EMpower), a not-for-profit organization that ties the resources of emerging market professionals with community based organizations in developing countries. Virginia holds a B.S. from Georgetown University and an M.A. in International Development Studies from the University of London - School of Oriental and African Studies. In 2003 Virginia spent the year in Kampala, Uganda where she worked as a counselor for urban refugees.

Joshua Smith is a Senior Member of the Technical Staff at Oracle Corporation, an enterprise software company. He has served as a member on technical advisory committees for high schools in southern New Hampshire, helping to maximize the benefit of technology in the classroom. Josh is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in engineering.

The Dobbyn Foundation is excited to welcome Virginia and Josh to the Board of Directors.



## WHY WE ARE DISTINCT

There are a number of charity organizations that do similar work to the Dobbyn Foundation. Here are some of the reasons why we are different:

### Site Visits

We visit our scholars on a yearly basis and have partner organizations who monitor the students throughout the academic year.

### Accountability

We communicate directly with our partner organizations in Africa and require periodic updates on our scholars. This hands-on approach ensures financial oversight from all parties to our Board of Directors.

### Dedication

The Dobbyn Foundation is a completely volunteer organization where your donations go directly to the needs of our scholars.

### Lasting relationship with our students

We believe in a long-term comprehensive commitment to our scholars and to their futures. Our financial relationship will last a minimum of four years. More importantly, we hope to stay in contact with the students as they grow into adults and to follow their respective careers.

### Lasting relationship with donors

We strive for an organization that is built upon personal relationships with our donors rather than merely fundraising opportunities. As friends of The Dobbyn Foundation, we value your input and questions. We are always available.

## KEY FACTS: UGANDA EDUCATION

- Education is the most important way for communities and countries to tackle the root causes of poverty
- Primary education in Uganda is free but many children drop out of school because of large class sizes (up to 100), and teachers with limited resources and training
- The Dobbyn Foundation works with local partners in Uganda to provide quality education for children and families

Source: UNICEF: 2000-2005