

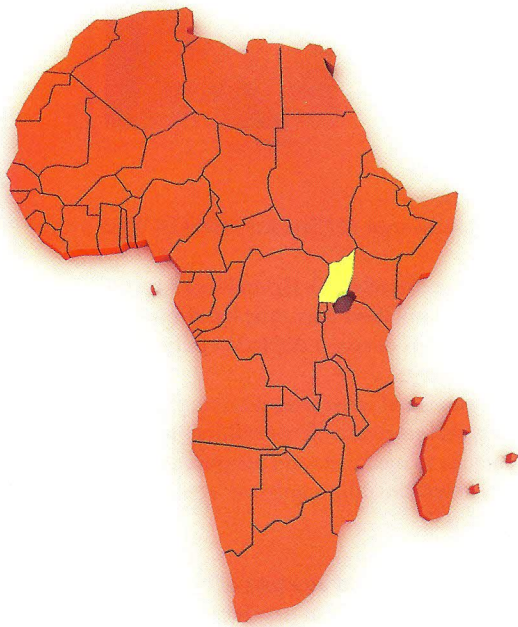
bocaraton

MARCH/APRIL 2012

VOL. 32 NO. 2

Linda Greenberg and the Students at American Heritage

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN UGANDA



The statistics are alarming. Every 30 seconds in Uganda, a child dies from malaria, and several others die from drinking contaminated water. Many children don't live beyond the age of 5. Those who do escape disease often labor long hours in stone quarries for a pittance of \$1.25 a day.

It's an existence that most South Florida youth can't begin to comprehend. But that hasn't stopped students at American Heritage School of Boca/Delray from trying to ease the suffering of Ugandan children by providing the service they need most: a hospital.

The independent college preparatory school has embraced the nonprofit 4Uganda, founded by Linda Greenberg. The Delray Beach resident first visited the landlocked country in central Africa five years ago, fulfilling a childhood dream to see the silverback gorillas for which Dian Fossey lived and died.

While there, Greenberg developed a mother-son connection with a young boy; she listened daily to his stories and struggles. "From my relationship with him, I saw the needs of other kids in Uganda," she says.

A visit to the fishing village of Myende Landing, an island more than seven miles from the nearest health center, sealed Greenberg's conviction. She returned

home intent on raising funds for a hospital in the village that could service 90,000 patients.

But how? Greenberg decided to approach American Heritage—and with good reason. The Ugandan cause was a perfect fit for the school, which prides itself on a four-pronged philanthropic approach (local, state, national and international). Neil Rosen, adviser for the school's Key Club and Honor Society, began to champion Uganda as the flagship international project for years to come, assembling steering committees of students and parents, each sharing equal fundraising weight.

Students from the lower school all the way to graduating seniors embraced the project selflessly. Johanna Sacks' parents hosted a cocktail party to persuade potential donors. Students Max and Charlie Himmelrich raise funds through their grandfather's nonprofit foundation. Blake Meredith launched a website (heritage4uganda.com), using social media to attract other students and their Facebook friends to the organization.

"It's had not only an emotional impact on the steering committee, but the student body as a whole," says Jacob Bosses, president of the National Honor Society and a key member of the steering committee. "The students are enthusiastic about