



# Kumi Community Foundation

Helping others to help themselves

[www.kumicommunityfoundation.co.uk](http://www.kumicommunityfoundation.co.uk)

 @kumicommunityfoundationuganda

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## Meet the Team!

The Kumi Community Foundation was founded by Elspeth Robinson. Here she tells us how she became involved with the people of Kumi" *I first went to Kumi Hospital in Uganda in September 2002 following my redundancy after working as a physiotherapist at St John of God Hospital, Scorton, for nearly forty years. Over the years and twenty eight visits later, my input has progressed into the Kumi Community Foundation, a registered charity, which has changed my life. I started by treating a few children with disabilities in the hospital rehab department and, gradually, we developed a programme based in the rural community for families living in extreme poverty and with disabilities and/or malnourishment. I work in partnership with local health care workers in Kumi and with a number of charities who help to identify patients for treatment and oversee their rehabilitation afterwards . My motto is 'Helping others to help themselves' and this sums up my work in Kumi ' .*

## WELCOME!

The Kumi Community Foundation funds and promotes initiatives to help people living with disabilities in Kumi, Eastern Uganda. Founded in 2002, the foundation supports many individuals with disabilities and malnourishment who are living in extreme poverty in remote areas of the bush.



# Okolodong Wilson's Story

Okolodong Wilson (Ugandans write their Christian names second!) first came to KCF's attention when he attended a Wheels for the World clinic at Kumi Hospital in February. He was brought in by his brothers, the last patient at the end of a very long clinic. A fit and active 17 year old attending college, he unfortunately fell out of a mango tree collecting food for his family and ended up paralysed from the waist down. Forced to drop out of his studies he had lost his spark as his life had been destroyed in an instant. He originally came to the clinic looking for a wheelchair, but was found to be suffering from extreme pressure sores, caused by his paraplegia which had become so deep that the bone was visible and they were very infected. Fortunately for Wilson his paralysis meant he felt no pain - but he could not leave without them being treated. KCF paid for him to be admitted to hospital and KCF staff bought and delivered all the necessary medical and non medical supplies that were needed. Wilson's sores were so extensive and deep that he was unable to have skin grafts put on them, but after 10 weeks in hospital they were clean and free of infection. However, before the wounds were totally healed, Wilson's family decided that they could no longer spend time looking after him in the hospital as they needed to go home to plant food crops on their land as the rainy season was approaching. They were also scared by the COVID-19 lock down measures coming into place.

According to Harriet, our partner in Kumi, Wilson was discharged on the 23rd April and returned home. KCF enabled all costs to be paid as well as providing the family with gauze, gloves and Vaseline to enable continued care and dressings, Harriet visited Wilson at home and brought food to help his health together with his wounds. It is hoped Wilson will one day be able to resume his studies, but until then KCF will keep an eye on his progress.....

Unlike in the UK, when a patient is checked into Kumi Hospital they need to supply all non medical necessities too - such as bedding, food and cooking utensils. Family members must stay to provide and cook food for the patient - often sleeping on the floor next to the bed for the duration of the stay. This is how your donations can help patients like Wilson get the treatment they need....



Wilson in February when he received his wheelchair



Wilson in Kumi Hospital



KCF deliver supplies to Wilson at home

# Meet Okolojo Moses

Moses visited the Wheels for the World team at Kumi Hospital in February. Now 18 years old he was born lame in both legs and was brought to Kumi Hospital as a young child to undergo a procedure that it was hoped would lengthen his limbs.

Unfortunately this operation was unsuccessful and left Moses needing crutches to walk. An orphan since 2017 he now lives with a neighbour who kindly took him in. Despite his mobility problems, Moses still managed to attend school and hopes to be a doctor one day. Moses was assessed by the physio team and was found to be suffering from scoliosis and extreme kyphosis which had left his spine severely twisted with a large hump. Although Moses feels no pain, he suffers from incontinence which make him very uncomfortable and is embarrassing for him when he goes to school. He even resorted to using a rubber glove as a catheter!

Moses was given two pairs of new crutches to replace his old battered one and spare 'ferrules'(the rubber bits on the end of the crutch!). He was also given new shoes to replace his tattered flip flops, a mattress to help him sleep and other personal essentials.

Taken by his plight - and his desire to continue his studies, the KCF team quickly identified potential sponsors for Moses - who now pay for his education and supply essential equipment necessary for him to attend school. We will monitor Moses' progress and hope he one day achieves his dream of becoming a doctor!!

## Funding facts.....

It can cost as little as £25 per month to send a child to school in Kumi and change their life forever. Funding covers the cost of education and school supplies. Additional funding can sometimes be needed to cover the cost of personal essentials.

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can help KCF - either by supporting their outreach work, funding a child's education or helping with hospital expenses ... contact [kumicomfound@yahoo.com](mailto:kumicomfound@yahoo.com)

For more stories and information about the KCF work in Uganda visit [www.kumicomcommunityfoundation.co.uk](http://www.kumicomcommunityfoundation.co.uk)



Moses checks into clinic at Kumi Hospital



Moses is assessed by a WFTW PT



Moses with his new crutch and incontinence pads