

# Rose's Journey Scholarship Fund

Rolling out new scholarships for baccalaureate nursing education in Uganda...

January 2018

## Updates

**Putting our shoulders to the wheel...the Journey continues through the support of outstanding Nursing Scholars in Uganda...**

Dear friends, 2017 is over and this update is long overdue. It comes, once again, with gratitude for your continued thoughtful, selfless and continued support of all the causes we continue to champion. One of those causes is the Rose's Journey Scholarship Fund (RJSF) which was established in 2009 as a result of the Rose's Journey (RJ) Campaign. The goal of the fund is to be able to support nursing students who are deserving, have demonstrated financial need, and have potential to emulate some of the defining values and the spirit of RJ: A dedication to the pursuit of excellence in service, hard work, passion for nursing, passion for humanity; resilience, and a demonstrated ability to lead, inspire and enable others in the community through intentional citizenship.

**Nakaye Zainah, BNS Direct Year IV.**



Additionally, the fund allows us to explore opportunities for Nursing Leadership Development, Mentorship and Lifelong Learning about People, Patients, & Policy and how Nurses in Leadership can foster transformation in practice in resource poor communities. Uganda, like many countries in Low-to-Middle-Income countries, faces a critical shortage of well-prepared nurses. The deficit of nursing leaders to foster nursing and healthcare transformation is equally staggering. Uganda's Nursing and Midwifery Policy (2017) (the first of its kind) prioritizes building capacity and strengthening nursing leadership at all levels of care. The highest level of education for majority of nurses and midwives in Uganda is a certificate level. Fewer nurses can afford or have opportunities for professional growth including opportunities for advanced degrees. Thank you to everyone who is putting their shoulders to the wheel to ensure that RJSF, will continue to provide opportunities to more graduates who can contribute towards closing this gap in Uganda.

**With Gratitude,** Rose Clarke Nanyonga





## RJSF: ALUMNI

Creating Opportunities for Nursing Leadership Development, Mentorship and Lifelong Learning about People, Patients, Policy and how to change our Practice in resource poor communities

**Aisha Nedege (to my left):** Aisha, one of the first recipients of the RJSF, graduated from International Health Sciences University (IHSU) with a BSN in 2014, and has continued to demonstrate exceptional leadership at International Hospital Kampala (IHK) serving in various roles including: Head Nurse for the Children's Center; Head Nurse, Specialist Center; and Head Nurse, Oncology Unit (Current role). It has been a joy to see her grow while bringing others along with her through her leadership.

**Evelyn Ajiambo:** Like Aisha, Evelyn is another one of our

pioneer scholars. Evelyn graduated with her BSN in 2014. Evelyn has been voted "Nurse of the year" twice during her tenure at IHK and continues to exhibit exceptional talent for working with others and facilitating teams to accomplish goals as the team leader for the operating theaters at IHK. She has played key roles in organizing the End Child Sacrifice Campaign in Uganda—particularly in getting the students to participate. RJ Scholarship Fund was awarded to Evelyn for just one year—she was responsible for the rest of her tuition (paid mainly from her salary). Her enthusiasm is infectious!

**Anita Ashaba, BSN 2013.** Anita is currently working in the Emergency Department at IHK while pursuing a Master's in Public Health part time.

**Frank Kiwanuka, BSN, 2015.** Frank is our first male scholar and RJ is proud to be a part of his scholarship journey at IHSU. Frank is one of 5 children raised by their mother. As such, even though he has always been a top student, he has always struggled with schools fees.

### Frank Kiwanuka, BSN 2015, MSN 2019

In his final year at secondary school, Frank negotiated a deal with the Headmaster: The Headmaster would let him sit for final exams; and in return, he would work in the school garden! He also took on an extra carpentry job to raise money for his tuition and pay for university acceptance fees. But in his first year at IHSU, Frank could not balance the demands of work,

school and the mounting tuition bill. In his spare time and during his vacations, he was involved in church youth initiatives and sometimes mobilized them for community volunteer work. He served on the student guild and earned a semester abroad before completing his BSN. His tenacity and people skills are exceptional. Following graduation, he completed his internship and



earned another scholarship to pursue a Masters in critical care nursing at Tehran University of Medical Sciences.



## RJSF ALUMNI (Cont.)

**Namyalo Barbara, BSN 2015:** Barbara finished her A' Levels with 12 points (a reasonably good score). She is the first born of 8 children and her father has struggled to keep her in college due to lack of funds.

She believes that nurses, when given the skills, opportunities they need, have so much potential to impact the lives of patients...much more than other clinicians especially where there are less healthcare providers. Barbara is interested learning more about maternal and women's health in general as well as community health. Barbara graduated with a BSN in December 2015. Her mandatory internship was delayed and she was only recently deployed to Mubende Hospital where she will spend a year before seeking licensure and employment.

## Current RJSF Scholars



**We receive** more than 30 applications of eligible candidates every semester. However, the selection of final candidates is determined by availability of funds. The BSN at IHSU is a 4-year program (for pre-service education) and 3 years for nurses holding a diploma. The average cost (recently adjusted) of tuition and fees to program completion (3-4years) is 4500.00-7000.00USD depending on the exchange rates.

**There** are currently six scholars in the program at various stages in their studies.

**Okot Michael (Left), BNS Direct Year II.** After graduation an internship, Michael would like to work with communities to reduce the burden of communicable diseases. He is passionate about pursuing a career as a nurse advocate and educator. He was recently selected by the School of Nursing as a student representative to participate in the student exchange program which will allow him to study in Finland for one semester.

**Nakaye Zainah, BNS Direct Year IV,** will graduate in December 2018. Nakaye hopes to specialize in Critical Care Nursing. She is also passionate about advocating for the rights of young women, in

## Announcing recipients of the Rose's Journey Scholarship FUND (RJSF)

The RJSF was established in 2009 as a result of the Rose's Journey Campaign. The goal of the fund is to be able to support nursing students who are deserving, have demonstrated financial need, and have the potential to emulate some of the defining values and the spirit of Rose's Journey: A dedication to the pursuit of excellence in service; a servant heart, hard work, passion for nursing, passion for humanity, resilience, and a demonstrated ability to lead, inspire and enable others in communities.

Rose's Journey are delighted to announce the four recipients of Rose's Journey Scholarships



**Nakaye Zainah**  
BNS Direct IV



**Outa Christopher**  
BNS Direct I



**Odongo Agnes Ruth**  
BNS Direct Top-up II



**Atim Jackline**  
BNS Direct Top-up II

particular, she speaks out against early marriages and any culture or practice that prevents girls from accessing education. She spends majority of her free time working towards that agenda with a community based organization in her home village.

### Other scholars as pictured above

**Kato Patrick, Clinical Medicine, Year II.** Patrick is a unique selection in this cohort since he is pursuing a clinical medicine diploma instead of a nursing degree. He is categorized as the student's scholar since he was nominated by the student body to receive the scholarship. Kato has spent the last four years struggling to fund his education. His approach: work one year, study one, then take a dead year and work again. At this rate, it would take 6 years to complete a 3 year diploma program of study. His tenacity is inspiring. He is an engaged student and continues to serve as part of the student's guild, often as a volunteer. RJSF is delighted to honor the students' selection and will support Patrick for the remaining time of his program.



**Kato Patrick, DCM II**

**Note:** Uganda uses BNS instead of BSN



Thank you to all the dedicated supporters of the RJSF who make the journey to nursing possible. For many of our scholars, this was an unattainable dream.

Thank you for keeping these nursing students in school and for making their nursing dreams possible. We will keep you updated on their progress. Please continue to partner with us in mentoring, funding and in creating more opportunities for future nursing leaders in Uganda.



Barbara with her friends at graduation, December 2015

**Special thanks to:**

Mr. and Mrs. Jonas, New York, USA

Melinda Westbrook, CT, USA

Narrow Road, CO, USA

Friends and Family who unendingly support my work,  
passion and dreams.

To Support to RJSF

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*...It is good that you exist, it is good that you are in the world...J Piper*