



FAMILY SPIRIT CHILDREN CENTRE

P.O. BOX 542

MASINDI, UGANDA, EAST AFRICA

Email: [familyspiritcarecentre@yahoo.com](mailto:familyspiritcarecentre@yahoo.com)

A REPORT PRESENTED ON THE ACTIVITIES OF FAMILY SPIRIT CHILDREN CENTRE

ON

4<sup>TH</sup> / DECEMBER / 2012

BY:

FAMILY SPIRIT CHILDREN CENTRE, NYANGAHYA

SUBMITTED TO:

THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

MADINDI DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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## About (summary)

Family Spirit runs its activities in Masindi District, Uganda, as a Community Based Organisation (CBO) whose main objective is to create a community orphanage which provides a home to support and care for orphans and vulnerable children directly infected by HIV/AIDS, wars and violence.

As of now Family Spirit advocates for and sensitises Health Workers and Health Management Committee members to plan adequately for services that will contribute to reduction in maternal and child mortality with the help of funds from the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Uganda (IHAA).

The Organisation has linked some destitute orphans to international communities. A case in point: seven children were adopted for care and social support in the USA and they are being groomed for various vocations/careers.

However, in spite of the achievements, Family Spirit has registered its main challenge: little consideration has been made towards it since we don't have a budget line like other existing organisations.

Secondly, the Organisation lacks formal partners to fund most of its activities.

Since the achievement significantly outweighs the challenges, Family Spirit is on the progressive run to achieve most of its main objectives.

## BACKGROUND

Family Spirit Child Care Center was founded in 2002 by a group of people living with HIV/AIDS who realised the plight of children suffering after parents died. Much as the effects of the death covered all members of the family, the children were the most affected since they could not do anything towards their survival.

Family Spirit was created to create a home for some children, as well as act as a platform for the welfare of the suffering children in their foster families. The Organisation provides a home to the absolutely vulnerable children, among whom include those that have lost both parents and have no foster family, those that are directly affected by civil wars and aggravated home violence.

## VISION

A child free from suffering

## MISSION

To increase Community Participation and involvement in Prevention, Care and Support activities so as to mitigate the health, social, spiritual, and economic impact of war, home violence and HIV/AIDS at all levels.

## CORE VALUES

Volunteerism, love, unity, accountability, selflessness, humanitarianism, popular participation and inductiveness, honesty and integrity, gender sensitivity.

## GOALS

The goal of the Organisation is to ensure that the challenges of growing up as an orphan are transformed into an opportunity of hard work, resilience and better education for the children in our Organisation.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANISATION**

- To create a community orphanage which provides a home to support and care for orphans and vulnerable children who are directly infected with HIV/AIDS and those affected by war and domestic violence.
- To create a community education centre to enable the target children access quality education and skills for survival.
- To provide psycho-social support to the children so that they can fight stigma and discrimination so that they can feel loved and realise their potential among the community.
- To collaborate with government and other Civil Society Organisations dealing with HIV/AIDS Programs to seek advice, skills and professional expertise as well as implement some activities for and on their behalf.
- To train and produce responsible citizens and prepare them for job creation and create more employment opportunities for the communities who are beneficiaries of the Organisation either directly or indirectly.
- To mitigate stigma and discrimination among the communities through training and sensitisation campaigns

## **ACHIEVEMENTS (as of December 4<sup>th</sup> 2012)**

- Family Spirit advocate for and sensitised Health workers and Health management Committee members to plan adequately for services that will contribute to reduction in maternal and child mortality with the help of funds from International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Uganda (HHA)
- The Organisation has successfully started a school from nursery to primary seven with a total enrolment of 220 pupils with 10% coming from the community to access education from the school.
- The Organisation has linked some destitute orphans to international communities a case in point seven children were adopted for care and social support in USA and they are being groomed for various vocations/careers
- Family Spirit had also managed to pay some children in secondary and Tertiary institutions e.g. in secondary we have 5 boys and 4 girls and then in the institution 3 boys doing electrical engineering and 1 girl doing Comprehensive Nursing Course.
- Family Spirit has also acquired 17,5 acre farm land which is used to grow food for the center
- Family Spirit has completed a new self-contained girl's dormitory constructed with the help of our friend in USA which has the capacity to accommodate 90 children
- Family Spirit has also continued to get various European volunteers and some from the United States, all this coming as a result of having a good will at international level in the matter of caring for the suffering children.
- The Organisation also acquired Pentium 4 computer and several kilos of maize and bean seeds from Barclays Bank as a way of rewarding the suffering and marginalised people in the community.

## **CHALLENGES AND HOW WE ENCOUNTER THEM**

- Little consideration has been made towards Family Spirit since we don't have a budget line like other existing organisations. This is encountered when corporate bodies and Volunteers donate to Family Spirit

- Failure by the guardians and others relatives to help the orphans with some social support since Family Spirit is financially handicapped to certain limitations. This is addressed by sensitising the guardians about their social responsibility towards the welfare of these orphans.
- Limited source of funds which would have spurred Family Spirit to achieve most of its objectives or the Organisation lacks formal partners to fund most of its activities. This is a big challenge since funders are still at large.
- Nutrition is still a problem since Family Spirit can't provide the required food for the positive living children, this is always addressed when guardians and good hearted people from the community buy for the children balanced diet.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Conclusively, as it has been in the report Family Spirit Children Centre has registered some strong achievements in its activities there's a need for a concerted effort together with Government Agencies and other Civil Society Organisations to help realisation of its Visions.

Family Spirit takes this chance to call upon all the Development Agencies in the district to join hands together in order to fight stigma and discriminations of people living with HIV/AIDS in the region most especially among the infants.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

I recommend that the District and other government agencies to include Family Spirit among the Organisation they give aid so as to address the challenges it's facing.

NYAKOOJO R. ISAAC

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR