



Bushenyi Alliance for Rural Health & Development

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John Staedke, Editor



Samuel's Saga



My father died when I was 10 and I often felt I had little chance of a good life. My mother struggled to raise my primary school fees and doubted I'd go beyond sixth grade. Though none of my family ever graduated from high school, I regularly fantasized about becoming educated. My twin brother and I constantly told our mother that someday we would be. She usually listened patiently as we told her our hopes and dreams. One day, she calmly advised us to keep quiet so we wouldn't be laughed at by the neighbors. She said, "You know yourselves that it is impossible for you to be educated beyond primary school."

Then, one day, we got the good news that I could be sponsored by BARHD. How awesome was that? What a rare chance for me to be given an opportunity to make my dreams come true. After finishing secondary school, and with more support from BARHD, I was able to do my dream university program: Business Computing, which I passed with a first class grade, and was among the top graduates at the university. The university exposed me to competition and interaction with other students from other parts of the country, helping me make more friends and learn more about Uganda. I served as class president for the three years I was on campus. Furthermore, I got an opportunity to travel outside Uganda for the first time, to Kenya for an All-African Students' Leadership Convention.

I am very grateful for God's grace and to my sponsors for enabling me to do all this. I strongly support BARHD's drive to empower the needy and to give them a chance at a brighter future. My goal now, having been a fortunate 2007-2016 beneficiary of BARHD sponsorship, is to begin my career as a business manager and academician, with optimism and enthusiasm.

Bravo to my sponsors and to the whole BARHD/BIRD collaboration for the great job you are doing. I hope the legacy of BARHD and BIRD will last forever through the positive changes made in the many students being helped to obtain a quality education.

Kakuru Samuel

2016 Graduate with a BS in Business Computing from Uganda Christian University

Note: Samuel has since been hired by BIRD to implement improved communications between BIRD's four health centers and the BIRD office.