

Campaign: **Be a Partner Be EDOU Ambassador**
Area of focus: Education
Organisation: Education & Development Opportunity – Uganda (EDOU)
Project: The Brian Mutebi Dream Scholarship Fund
Location: Uganda, East Africa

The Be a Partner Be EDOU Ambassador campaign is a people’s campaign to transform lives. A Partner is he who donates to the charity. Partners can be individuals or institutions. An Ambassador is he who shares this cause with others and encourages them to support our work. Ambassadors help connect willing hearts to the areas of practical need. The campaign is aimed at supporting the Brian Mutebi Dream Scholarship Fund, the first scholarship scheme in Africa for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and teenage mothers. And because of the effects of the HIV/AIDS scourge in the country, scholarships are also awarded to orphaned and girls with disabilities. The Fund was established and named after EDOU’s founder, the award-winning journalist and girls’ rights campaigner, Brian Mutebi. Brian features on the Women Deliver global list of “15 journalists, 15 voices for girls and women” and described by *News Deeply* as “one of Africa’s leading women rights crusaders” for his extensive writing and advocacy for girls’ and women’s rights.

Conceiving the Dream

A Personal Testimony

“I founded the charity at age 26. Growing up in a poverty-stricken home where access to basic necessities of life was difficult, I knew the realities of poverty and thus became highly passionate about making a real difference in the lives of people. Orphaned at ten and brought up by my peasant grandmother and step grandfather, I nearly dropped out of school when my grandparents could afford no more the cost of my education. Along this difficult journey, however, I met Good Samaritans who held my hand up. Thanks to their support through school, I became the first graduate on my village in 2007! I wanted to do something that would make a real difference in the lives of people. My journey of grace had made me understand everyone needs a hand extended to them so they could realise their dreams. I conceived a Dream. It was a joyful burden <http://bit.ly/20usSxO> God had put on my heart – joyful because the thought of transforming lives of people was pleasant to the mind yet a burden because I didn’t know how it would turn into a life-transforming reality.

The Impact of the Dream

Dream Scholarships

Since 2009, EDOU has been growing in her charity cause, mobilizing and committing resources in areas of practical need. In Uganda, one in four girls between 15-19 years of age, according to the Health Demographic Survey, is either pregnant or had a baby. Only one in 10 is able to return to school after giving birth. In 2012, Brian sold his piece of land at \$1,500 and started the Fund <http://bit.ly/1t6upiA>, which has so far benefited 30 in primary <http://bit.ly/1VRY1MY> and secondary schools and at university. One such girl is Lisa 21, a GBV survivor studying Bachelors of Laws at Makerere University Kampala <http://bit.ly/29QJBZw>. The scholarships bestow upon girls a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. We also built home for homeless orphans <http://bit.ly/1JSNvL1>.

The widows of the living

The Fund also runs HerWallet project, a multi-impact project for the “widows of the living” – women who are married but to absent husbands, thus the economic weight of running their families rests on them. The women needed to pull themselves out of poverty, but lacked the means to. Discouraged by a rigorous banking system, they turned to money lenders who were exploitative including sexually harassing the women. HerWallet addresses sexual exploitation and economic marginalization of women. We advance soft loans to women to boost their businesses so they are able to meet their home needs including paying school fees for their children. 30 households have so far benefited from the project.

Our financial need

Areas of practical need

Brian has been the major contributor to the Brian Mutebi Dream Scholarship Fund. The charity however struggles to run sustainably amidst an overwhelming need in the community. The “Be a Partner Be EDOU Ambassador” Campaign seeks partnerships in individuals and institutions to share into this Dream of giving an education to children of the poor in Uganda. A Partner is he who donates to the Fund. An Ambassador is he who shares this cause with other people in their networks and encourages them to support us. There are always parties willing to support noble causes if only they knew or somebody told them about a unique life-transforming project. Ambassadors provide that vital link of connecting willing hearts to the area of practical need <http://bit.ly/1R0UTcl>.

How to make your donation

Wire money direct to the charity’s bank account

Account Name: Education & Development Opportunity – Uganda

Account No. 2032160000

Sort Code: 13 02 47 | Swift code: AFRIUGKA

Bank: Bank of Africa Uganda Limited | Branch: Equatoria

Or

Call **+256 701 378219** and transfer money through Western Union or Money Gram

How else you can get involved.

- Come for the annual “Uganda Charity Tours” where Partners and Ambassadors every year visit Uganda to experience first-hand how their donations are transforming lives, and do tourism expeditions in the Pearl of Africa, a land gifted by nature with some of the world’s amazing tourist attractions
- Get your church partner with us in demonstrating the love of God in Uganda.
- Assist establish an EDOU chapter at a college or university where students voluntarily sign up to mobilize fellow students, communities through music concerts or dinners and raise funds for the charity.
- Set up an EDOU Chapter in your city to enable us mobilise local resources.
- Corporate Social Responsibility. Get your business to greater heights while serving humanity and transforming lives.

Education & Development Opportunity – Uganda

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