

## **Arlington Academy of Hope**

### **Secondary Scholarship Program: The Wamundu Fund for the Future**

AAH initiated a Secondary Scholarship Program in January 2007 to support our first class of 31 students – 16 girls and 15 boys. Each of these students applied for AAH scholarship support and agreed to the program's requirements. All of the students have just completed senior one and most are ranked in the top half of their classes. The headmaster from Migadde College, which is attended by nine AAH students, reports that they are among the hardest working, best behaved in the school and he would welcome more AAH students at his school.

All in the most recent class of AAH graduates are eligible to attend division 1 or division 2 secondary schools in February 2008. Without financial assistance, they will be unable to continue their education. AAH will seek and welcome donations throughout the year to support their continued schooling. The AAH Secondary Scholarship Program will provide critical financial assistance, transitional oversight and mentoring to these and other eligible AAH graduates.

*The guidelines for the program are as follows:*

**Academics:** AAH graduates will be eligible for scholarship consideration on a year-by-year basis depending on the availability of funds. Students scoring in division one on their Primary Leaving Exams are given priority followed by those scoring in division 2. They must also maintain a specified good grade level while in secondary school in order to continue their scholarship.

**Vetted Schools:** Students will attend secondary schools vetted and regularly assessed by AAH both for academics and appropriateness to children coming from rural areas. AAH administrators and teaching volunteers toured 18 secondary schools in October 2007. Many first division schools offered to partner with AAH and admit students who perform well even if they don't meet all their rigorous admission criteria. This is a great vote in confidence in AAH. We envision selecting a handful of these schools from which AAH students can choose.

**Community Service:** To ensure the entire Bumwalukani community benefits from the investment in the future of their sons and daughters, all recipients of scholarship funding will be expected to return to the village and perform community service under the guidance of AAH between term breaks in the school year.

**Mentoring and Oversight:** A team of AAH teachers, administrators and volunteers will help students prepare for and transition to secondary school. Student evaluations are reviewed each term so that concerns about academic performance or emotional adjustment can be addressed immediately.

**Child Sponsorship:** Every student at the AAH primary school is sponsored by a donor in the U.S. who supports AAH financially and develops a special bond with the child. AAH helps these child-sponsor relationships continue into secondary school by facilitating ongoing correspondence and managing a scholarship fund to which sponsors and donors can contribute.

AAH will need to raise approximately \$60,000 in 2008 to cover the cost of tuition, room and board, books, uniforms and other school fees for the 61 students going to secondary school. If all students receive child sponsorship, this will cover approximately one-third of the funds needed. AAH was recently awarded a grant from the Million Dollar Roundtable Foundation of \$5,000 toward this program. A generous individual donor recently gave \$5,000 to the scholarship fund as well. We are actively seeking funding from other sources. We invite you to join this partnership. You can make a donation on-line at <https://secure-aah.bluestatedigital.com/page/contribute/secondaryscholarships> or by sending your check payable to Arlington Academy of Hope at P.O. Box 7694; Arlington, VA 22207. Together we can continue the dream of education for children in rural Uganda.