

Vuga e.V. Newsletter

Dear Members, Partner and Friends of the Vuga Community,

we happy to present to you the next number of our newsletter. There are a lot of informations to share. We just finished our seminars in Germany and Uganda with a lot of fresh ideas, we have a new Website, new partners and a new facebook page.

Of course we also have our volunteers busy and looking forward seeing the new generation in preparation. Therefore we are still looking for applicants, so please tell your friends and all who might be interested and let them check out our new website: weltwaerts-uganda.org

Certification

by FEE



We are very happy to announce that Vuga e.V. is now successfully certified for the Quality of our volunteer service by the German institution Quifd.

That is a major achievement and we are very happy joining the group of German organizations with the highest standards for quality.

We had our in-between seminar from Sunday 18.3.2018 to Thursday 22.3.2018 at Governors club in Kitale, Entebbe. The seminar was attended by all the 7 current volunteers, one former volunteer, former president (1 day), 2 representatives from the partner organizations and Johannes. Several resolutions were reached.

Projects and Seminar

by TRINA

Our volunteers have been involved in different projects for example, the carpentry by the volunteers at YAWE in fort portal or the live band by our volunteer at huyslink to mention a few. This live band which was funded by Vuga, is doing very well and it is hired at functions to perform and our volunteer there is fully involved.



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New Website and Applications

by JOHANNES

After a month of work, we are now ready to present our new website, which is especially designed to attract new volunteers. We are also working to get the new Website on top of Google searches as soon as possible. The new website is also a reaction to our low number of applicants this Year. There are more and more offers for young people to go abroad and it is quite difficult for a small society to get in touch with new volunteers. We hope the new website can address this problem. Please check it out and tell others: weltwaerts-uganda.org



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Wood working Project

by THEO

Three months ago the project launched with the idea of creating a working opportunity for some young people who are part of the YAWE Foundation Youth Group or Kabarole Unique Stars Association (short KUSA). It took place with big help from Deborah, a local carpenter.



We started to produce key holders and after two weeks we already managed to manufacture them in a quality that could be sold. Now the project has not been working for the last month, but there are already new students. We got our own storage room on the YAWE compound and just have to wait for the finishing of the construction of our future working place. I also fundraised for some electroinc machines. Things are developing very quickly, and soon we will start again with new students, new tools, our own storage room and our own working place on the YAWE compound.

We are also currently fund raising for some machines which are really needed to work in a more professional way. The fundraising runs via a webpage at betterplace.org

We are still looking for people who want to support us! Thank you for your help!

Final Seminar in Kochel

by JENNY

On the first weekend of March, the last seminar for the volunteers generation 2016/17 took place in Bayern. Johannes and the volunteers analyzed their final reports. Afterwards, the participants of the seminar split themselves into teams. They worked on topics such as PR and media, prepara-



tion seminar for the 2018/19 volunteers, information management on Google Drive and supervisor workshops. Merlin and Lexi are now the PR managers of Vuga, they are responsible for the new facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/vugaverein/>) and website(s). Lexi and Merlin welcome every input for facebook posts, feel free to send them messages. Furthermore, Maria is now responsible for data protection. Jenny and Johannes are responsible for the newsletter which will be send to all Vuga partners every 4 months by Fee.

Lexi, Wieland, Jelly and I want to say Goodbye as volunteers and Hello as new members of Vuga e.V. A very, very big thank you to everyone who realized our volunteer year in Uganda!

Learning Kiganda Dance

by JULIA

One of my highlights of the last months was definitely learning how to dance Kiganda dance, the traditional dances of Buganda kingdom. A work colleague had connected me to a youth group at his church which was preparing for a dancing competition taking place at the end of January.

The competition itself was very exciting for me. I had never been in a direct competition before and everything was very new to me. Moreover, of course everyone was eager to see the white person dancing their dances. I was not really nervous, but it was a strange feeling nevertheless, knowing that all eyes (not last of the five judges) in the crowded room were on me, cameras all over filming me and hearing people shout "Muzungu" from all directions.



After the competition I continued with dancing by joining groups on various functions even as far as in Mukono. I know some professional MCs who invite me to functions because of course a "Muzungu" dancing traditional dances is something very special and surprising. I even earn my transport money by myself now as it is custom to be given little money from the audience if they like the performance.

Janas Work at JESE

by KUGONZA FRED

JESE is an indigenous NGO working in western part of Uganda commonly known as the Rwenzori region on the foothills of mountain Rwenzori. In August 2017 we received a young lady by names of JANA BAUER who joined the organisation as an international volunteer through the partnership with VUGA, JESE being a busy organisation with various projects in WASH, Sustainable Agriculture and forest governance. She has been majorly involved in agriculture activities as well as water and sanitation activities in schools which have helped her to interact with young children on hygiene issues. On the agriculture side she has been able to participate in activities which involved training farmers groups on areas of production and crop management as well as strengthening groups in group marketing.

Relationship between VUGA and JESE has been good with open communication channels such as phone calls, emails, WhatsApp, and meetings on dealing with any issues that have come up such as securing Jana's housing in Kyenjojo, the less involvement and sharing between her and agriculture field staff. Innovatively Jana has been able to research on KEY HOLE vegetable gardening which we have embraced as JESE and willing to transfer the knowledge to our farmers, as well as establishing her tomato demonstration at JESE office.



Work at Little Light

by ANNA

I have been working for Little Light since August last year. One of the most important projects for me is the youth group which was founded by the youths them-

selves in 2013 under the umbrella of Little Light. Most of the young people come from the slum of Namuwongo, where Little Light is active. The organization usually has three volunteers, one from Germany and two from Israel. Some ideas for Spoon Youth activities come from the volunteers and some from other group members. They are always discussed with Winnie and the group during our weekly meetings. In the end Winnie always has the last word, as we volunteers only want to play an accompanying role.

An important part of Spoon Youth are the different dance groups (two street dance groups and one traditional dance group). They meet almost daily to practice and have several small appearances here and there. Twice we organized a show, with the proceeds we wanted to buy costumes, trainers and instruments. Unfortunately, the income just covered the costs. We are currently trying to collect donations for trainers.



Next Dates:

- 20. bis 21.04.2018: Mitgliederversammlung QV ventao in Berlin
- 11. bis 17.06.2018: Vorbereitungsseminar in Leipzig
- 18. bis 21.06.2018: Partnerkonferenz in Frankfurt
- Mitte August 2018: Ausreise der neuen Freiwilligengeneration