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Reflecting back on my eight weeks in Uganda, I become painfully aware of the distance that currently exists between the amazing people I spent time with this summer and myself.

During my time in Nnindye and at Uganda Martyrs University, I was immersed in community life. Through the Ford Program internship I learned a great deal about development work and was able to work on a project that I feel passionately about. The most significant experience I took away from the summer was a sense of solidarity with the people I met.

The Ford Program internship is unique due to the connection with Notre Dame and the partnership with Uganda Martyrs' University. My site partner Matthew Panhans and I were able to work with both ND and UMU staff. Even now, being back at school, we are able to stay in touch with people on the ground and continue working on our projects. The Notre Dame relationship also provided a fun and interesting opportunity: visits by ND professors and donors. I appreciated the opportunity to share my experiences, as well as the experiences of the people of Nnindye, with visitors.

Living at Uganda Martyrs' University was a great experience that allowed us to become good friends with students and staff. Many of my favorite memories from the summer involve time spent with people we met through the university who generously invited us to their homes. We also befriended the local parish priest, who loved to take us places ranging from a pastoral home, where we served the Eucharist to an elderly woman and her family, to a crocodile farm.

My summer project was working with St. Clare's, a vocational school for young women. At first I simply spent time at the school, getting to know the girls, teachers, and Catherine, the principal. Everyone was overwhelmingly hospitable. The school is primarily for girls who cannot

afford to continue with secondary school. For many of the girls who attend St. Clare's, the alternative to school is an early marriage. St. Clare's teaches practical, marketable skills. Graduates are able to generate an income for themselves, and are thus less likely to become stuck in an unstable or abusive relationship. I came to know and admire the staff, especially Catherine, for their incredible dedication to the education and empowerment of impoverished young women.

The most pressing concern for the school was and continues to be its poor financial situation. As the school frequently accepts students who cannot afford to pay all (or any) of the school fees, it continually runs budget deficits. The situation is becoming dire, as the school is having trouble coming up with enough money for food. Catherine and I worked together to plan income-generating projects that would enable the school to become self-sustaining. The projects would be rooted in the curriculum, allowing the girls to further develop their skills while simultaneously earning an income. Investment in a chicken breeding class, sewing and weaving machines, a modern oven, and improved agricultural equipment would cost a relatively small amount but would eventually prove profitable. We also discussed plans for how the school can become more actively involved in the community, potentially enhancing Notre Dame and Uganda Martyrs' University development efforts. The school is now teaching computer classes to local primary school teachers, secondary school students, and parish staff, and its agriculture course is also open for enrollment by community members. After Catherine and I developed these project proposals, I synthesized them into a grant proposal the Ford Program can now use to apply for funding for the school. As I had never written a grant before, I used the support of Ford Program staff in developing a proposal. It is my hope that the grant will result in the funding that will enable the school to stay open and continue to educate disadvantaged girls.

In addition to my work with and for the vocational school, Matt and I were able to attend and participate in community outreach meetings in Nnindyé. When we arrived, Notre Dame and Uganda Martyrs' staff were in the process of sharing baseline survey results through a series of village meetings. I was able to attend two of those meetings. Although they were conducted entirely in Luganda, I appreciated the opportunity to witness the community engagement process. After the village meetings, Matt and I helped Jenna, a full-time Ford Program intern, to summarize and represent the results. We then attended a three-day training session for village representatives and community leaders, at which Uganda Martyrs' staff or village members translated for us so that we could follow the discussion. Although Matt and I did not participate in the planning or leadership of this training, we were able to help in small ways. A particularly proud moment was when Dr. Nnyanzi integrated into his presentation the charts we had made that demonstrate a cycle of poverty versus one of prosperity. I felt that apart from our individual projects, our primary role as interns was not to be leaders of a committee or to complete extensive projects, but to gain a greater understanding of a community-driven development process. This experience will prove invaluable should Matt or I choose to continue development work in the future.

Although the eight weeks I spent in Uganda absolutely flew by, I was able to meet wonderful people and learn a lot about development work. Despite the fact that it took me a while to become accustomed to a different way of working, the shift away from being solely task-oriented toward a focus on process and relationships was very enlightening. The Ford Program internship was an incredible opportunity to learn about people and community, and it showed me that genuine development can truly happen.