



New opportunities for Ibrahim Kizito

SUMMARY

'Children in Difficult Circumstances' was the subject of a seminar in Nairobi in June 2003. Two Scouts who were former street children, Diana and Ibrahim, participated in the seminar. Here is Ibrahim's story.

Ibrahim was born 20 years ago to poor parents who struggled to provide for him and his siblings. He dropped out of school at Senior 3 and ran to the streets of Kampala, the capital city of Uganda, after his parents could no longer afford to pay his school fees.

Living on the streets was very tough for young Ibrahim but it seemed the only solace from his frustrations. Life however took a new turn for the better when he joined Scouting through the initiative of the Uganda Scouts Association to reach out to street children. Scouting afforded Ibrahim a chance to travel to Nairobi for the 1997 'Sisi kwa Sisi' Jamboree where he met a lady from Ireland who offered to pay his school fees.



With someone to settle his fees, Ibrahim was back to High School, where he was able to pass his examinations. He is currently a first year student at the famous Makerere University pursuing an Environmental Science Degree. His university fees are being paid by the same well-wisher from Ireland.

Ibrahim Kizito attributes his success to discipline, patience, ambition and determination. He is thankful to Scouting for what he is today. He possesses Scouting skills and he has been able to lead a unit to the Uganda National Inter-Patrol competitions. He has also participated in several national and international Scout gatherings such as seminars, workshops, competitions and Jamborees.

The Uganda Scouts Association has also re-united Ibrahim with his family, who are proud of him, but he still lives at the 'Sunrise Village'.

In September 2003 Ibrahim travelled to Paris to represent Scouting at the first consultations between youth organisations and the president of the World Bank, James D. Wolfensohn, an event organised jointly by the World Bank, the World Organization of the Scout Movement and the European Youth Forum. Following this meeting he was one of the four young people who accompanied President Wolfensohn to the annual meeting of finance ministers in Dubai.

Ibrahim has demonstrated his ability to be ambassador for Scouting at these meetings of world leaders.

To find out more about the work of Scouting with Children in Difficult Circumstances and the work with the World Bank visit

www.scout.org/strat/news.shtml

